

Cases of bribery involving foreign companies have risen consistently over the past 10 years.

Page 7



Because of his family background, Na is particularly interested in the history of the Qing Dynasty as well as Manchu culture.

Page 9



"Even if you fall in love, you must ask someone to act as a matchmaker. It's not polite not to have a go-between."

Page 10



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GDP

Revision Defended

By Wei Lixin

Commenting on speculation that the recent revision of last year's gross domestic product may have been politically motivated, National Bureau of Statistics chief economist Yao Jingyuan, has claimed sole responsibility for the revision. Addressing the Forum on China Economic Development Trends and Macro-Control last Saturday, Yao declared, "Responsibility for the revision of the GDP growth rate lies largely with me."

In a surprise announcement on July 19, the National Bureau of Statistics revised last year's second-quarter GDP growth figure upward from 6.7 percent to 7.9 percent, the first-ever public revision of the published GDP.

GDP refers to the products of all resident units in a country (or region) during a certain period of time calculated at market prices. Annualized quarterly percent changes in GDP reflect

the growth rate of total economic output. The broad components of GDP are: consumption, investment, net exports, government purchases and inventories.

According to the bureau's revised figures, the first half-year growth of tertiary industry for 2003 was 6 percent rather than the previously reported 4.1 percent, while the service sector growth was up from 0.4 percent to 6.5 percent. Therefore, the GDP growth rate for the first half of 2003 was also revised up to 8.8 percent from 8.2 percent.

The unusual revision caused a flutter of speculation both at home and abroad. "China unveiled on Friday a snap statistical revision in last year's gross domestic product figures that conjured up the prospect of the managed slowdown in growth sought by the authorities," New Delhi TV reported on July 19, "You have to ask why the National Bureau of Statistics decided to revise last year's second-quarter GDP figures at this time. It does look rather convenient for them," said one Hong Kong-based Chinese economist.

'The US and other countries frequently report revised figures. The bureau's revision is in accordance with international practice.'

"As to the reason for the deviation, one factor is the lack of statistical data at that time, the other is the influence of the SARS outbreak," Xu Xianchun, chief of the bureau's National Economy Accounting Department, was quoted as saying in last Saturday's *21st Century Business Herald*. "The gloomy spirit affected most of the people investigated, and even the bureau's investigators. The negative affect of SARS tended to be exaggerated. Though full and accurate information now shows that the influence was not as great as expected, the public was really very pessimistic at the time," he added.

Accounting and reporting reforms

In fact this was not the first time for the bureau to revise its national accounting figure. Early in 1994, the GDP growth rate was revised upward from 11.8 percent to 12.6 percent. But to publish the revision openly in such a way is unprecedented.

The move is in accordance with new guidelines published in a document issued by the bureau in September last year. The document, titled Reform in GDP Accounting and Data Publishing, states that annual GDP accounting and subsequent reports are to be broken down into



three stages. These are a preliminary report issued in January of the following year; initial verification in September of that year, and final reports due in May and September of the following year.

Meanwhile, a quarterly GDP accounting and publishing system has been institutionalized accordingly.

The three-stage system is applied to quarterly GDP accounting and publishing also. Since the new system began to be put into effect at the start of this year, the bureau revised the figures for 2003 this year.

"The US and other countries frequently report revised figures. The bureau's revision is in accordance with international practice," Xu Xianchun concluded. (Between 1929 to 1999, the US has revised its GDP figures on 11 occasions.)

Yao Jingyuan said at last Saturday's forum, "Some of the statistical data may lag behind. We have to make estimates before the release of GDP figures as routine; it is reasonable that we adjust the figures after new data becomes available. In fact, it would be unusual if the rough accounting figures were never revised."

Questioning the figures

GDP and other macroeconomic statistics have a significant impact on government and business plans for the future, and the press and the public look to them as primary indicators of how well the country is doing. Improving the quality of macroeconomic data is today a high priority issue worldwide.

Meanwhile, a quarterly GDP accounting and publishing system has been institutionalized accordingly.

Some overseas media observed that the original calculations suggested a double-digit GDP growth during the April-June period this year, but the bureau revised the underestimated growth in the second quarter of last year when China was hit by the SARS outbreak to underline the impact of the central government's tough measures to cool the economy.

Xu Xianchun firmly denied such suggestions, saying, "I can guarantee that the GDP figure has not been affected by exterior influences."

So why are some overseas observers so skeptical about the reliability and independence of China's GDP figures?

"As far as I am concerned, the different approach for accounting GDP is one of the major factors," an official who declined to be identified told *Beijing Today*.

There are three approaches to calculating GDP: the expenditure approach calculates the final spending on goods and services; the product approach calculates the market value of goods and services produced; and the income approach totals the in-

come received by all producers in the country. The three methods must yield the same results because the total expenditures on goods and services (GNE) must by definition equal the value of the goods and services produced (GNP), which in turn must equal the total income paid to the factors that produced these goods and services (GNI).

China generally adopts the produce approach, while in developed countries, the expenditure approach is the fundamental method for GDP calculation. Due to deficiencies in the data, China's adoption of expenditure approach is still far from perfect.

Renowned economist Hu Zu-

Rain Wreaks a Little Havoc, Again

By Chu Meng

Following a rainstorm that brought Beijing to a halt on July 10, another torrential downpour swept over the southern part of the city early yesterday, severely affecting traffic flow on the capital's major roads.

The sudden deluge caused flooding in some areas, overloading drains and leaving many motorists stranded. It also exacerbated traffic jams on parts of the 2nd and 4th south ring roads caused by roadwork.

Photo by Photocome

liu said at the forum, "In those countries where the market economy is highly developed, the statistics seem more 'smooth' while in China, the figures have fluctuated sharply, which gave rise to the suspicion."

"But it does not indicate that the government is trying to disguise a fact, or to fabricate data," Hu stressed. "China, of course, must take further steps to perfect the system of collecting statistics, but errors are hard to avoid. Such problems also exist in western countries," he concluded.

EXECUTIVE EDITOR: JIAN RONG

EDITOR: HOU MINGXIN

DESIGNER: LI SHI

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Investment Reform Deepened

By Wei Lixin/Su Wei

A decision on deepening investment reform to encourage further development of the non-state investment system and enable businesses to make final decisions on investment and the allocation of resources was issued by the State Council on July 19.

At a press conference on Wednesday, Jiang Weixin, deputy director of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) outlined the main content of the decision.

The decision was made in the course of the government's macro-control over overheating sectors of the economy, which the government has attributed to blind investment and wasteful duplication in some industries.

The decision stresses that the government's sanctioning of investment projects will be lim-

ited to sectors pertaining to national security or public welfare, including support for under-developed areas, environmental protection, advancement of science and technology, and industrialization of high technology.

Jiang said the new rule will broaden the investment field to non-governmental economy and will not disturb economic micro-control.

The reform will reduce the government's direct intervention in the activities of enterprises, enable the market to better distribute resources, optimize investment structure, raise investment efficiency and promote the sustained, rapid, coordinated and healthy development of the national economy.

Currently all large investment projects in China, whether sponsored by state-owned or private organizations and enterprises, must pass an examination and

approval process by governments at different levels or relevant departments.

The decision says enterprises should play the leading role in investment activities. "That is, they should make investment decisions at their own discretion and shoulder risks of losses while banks should extend loans on their own account," the decision explained.

Jiang said the new rule delegated more rights to companies on investment decision making, however, considering the self-restriction system within Chinese enterprises has not been fully set up, the power-delegation might have a slight negative influence on macro-control. But the reform also contained elements to strengthen economic macro-control, including measures to restrain investment scale inflation.

Jiang also pointed out that a

catalogue released by the State Council lists "important and restricted fixed asset investment projects" requiring governmental sanctions, in the fields of agriculture, energy and power, transportation, information industry, raw materials, machinery manufacture, light industry and cigarettes, high and new technology, urban construction, finance and investment abroad.

The decision encourages non-governmental capital to enter unrestricted infrastructure, public welfare and other fields.

It also makes clear that methods of investment macro-control will be improved, "Through comprehensive use of economic, legal and necessary administrative measures, all investment activities will be effectively managed mainly through indirect regulation and control."



The State Administration of Cultural Heritage has launched a project to reinforce the subsided foundations of the 600-year-old Xi'an city wall. Photo by Photocome

Liability Repayment Scheme Unveiled

By Sun Yongjian

China's securities watchdog announced at a press conference Tuesday that pilot companies may repay liabilities owed to their subsidiary companies with the holdings counter-purchased by them, offering a solution to the common misappropriation of funds of listed companies by some major shareholders.

According to figures released by China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC), 99.6 billion yuan of misappropriated funds were found in more than 57 percent of 1,175 investigated enterprises in 2003.

The CSRC and the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC) co-issued a document in September 2003, strictly forbidding majority stake holders from improperly acquiring the funds of listed subsidiary companies.

The CSRC has formulated detailed principles on liability repayment, regulating that the price of the repayment should be decided by the market.

A CSRC spokesman said that regulators would punish those liable for the misappropriation of funds in the listed firms. Relevant listed firms and minority shareholders can launch civil lawsuits to obtain compensation.

Documents released by Broadcasting Media Company Wednesday indicate that up till June 30, 2004, Hunan Broadcasting and Television Industrial Center, the major shareholder of the company, had misappropriated over 500 million yuan from the listed company. With interest, the debt added up to 539 million yuan, according to the report.

Power Giant Backs Banking Reform

By Sun Yongjian

Large-scale domestic enterprise will for the first time participate in reforms of the state-owned commercial banks, *Beijing News* reported yesterday.

Domestically listed China Yangtze Power issued an announcement on the Shanghai Stock Exchange on Wednesday, saying that the company will offer 2 billion yuan in cash to participate in the sponsorship of China Construction Bank Holdings, a subsidiary of China Construction Bank.

The report was confirmed the same day by Yu Baoyue, vice president of the Construction Bank's

information department, although he did not reveal any further information.

The program is to be discussed in the first provisional session of the shareholders meeting, which will be held on August 30, the report said.

"Actually the company doesn't intend to keep the shares of the bank for a long period," a director of the company who declined to reveal his name told *Beijing News*, "and will possibly sell out the equities at an appropriate time."

This investment is launched in accordance with criteria formulated by the bank before June 9,

when the holding reform program received approval from the China Banking Regulatory Commission, which offered detailed regulations on the funds scale, turnover volumes, return rate of net assets and the lowest holding proportion, an executive member of the office of the board told *Beijing News*.

China's company law regulates that at least five initiator shareholders are necessary to sponsor a holding company, which means that at least three more initiator shareholders are needed besides the present two, including the parent corporation, according to the report.

Bank Credit Extension to be Strengthened

By Chu Meng

The China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC) issued guidelines for credit extensions among China's commercial banks Sunday, specifying responsibilities and prohibitions in crediting assessment and loans. The guidelines represent a major step toward reducing banking credit risk and enhancing administration of the banks, Xinhua reported Monday.

According to the report, the guidelines prohibit four operations of assessments in granting credit and loans, including those for products and projects that have been banned or declared illegal, investment in equity capital against regulations, investment in shares and futures in contravention of relevant rules and other projects that violate laws.

The guidelines also state nine banned operating items of bank

staff in charge of granting credit and loans assessment work such as: making false, misleading records or major oversights and omissions of records; failing to fully investigate a clients' credit worthiness; overusing the granting powers or violating the approving procedures; omitting core examining procedures after granting credit and loans; and failing to correct records of clients after major variations.

Meanwhile if bank staff strictly follow the correct process and concerned regulations, they could be exempted from responsibility for problematic credit extension.

A senior CBRC official familiar with the guidelines told Xinhua Monday that the credit and loans sector in China's commercial banks had seen all kinds of loan venture cases in recent years, bringing great risks to the banking industry. They all demonstrated

common problems in the administration of granting credit, with no clear responsibility regulations to assess and investigate the operation of banking staff.

Governor of the People's Bank of China Zhou Xiaochuan said at a finance conference on July 9, "we will not slacken restrictions on credit and loan extensions, though commercial banks have reported a slightly smaller number of non-performing loans. And compared with many other countries, the ratio of our bank loans for enterprises' operating funds is quite high. China's commercial banks still lack sufficient experience in this area."

Credit extension assessment is a series of comprehensive examination of clients' credit risks and financial conditions. Depending on the credit level, clients can apply for credit and loans within a certain time period.

Sino-US Landmark Pact Expands Airline Routes

By Chu Meng

A landmark Sino-US aviation pact was signed in Beijing Saturday by the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) and the US Department of Transportation.

The pact allows certificated companies from China and the US to set flight routes in any cities of the two countries, a senior CAAC offi-

cial announced at a press conference Sunday.

According to the official, the introduction of additional foreign airlines will help step up the construction of aviation infrastructure between China and the United States in the past 20 years and will benefit airline companies and make interaction between people of the two countries more convenient," the official said.

the number of airlines that may operate between China and the United States.

"This agreement is a result of the fruitful bilateral co-operation between China and the United States in the past 20 years and will benefit airline companies and make interaction between people of the two countries more convenient," the official said.

Beijing Complaint Center Opens

By Wei Lixin

The Beijing municipal government opened an administrative complaint center on Wednesday. Citizens may contact the center to lodge complaints about administrative officers for avoiding responsibilities, working inefficiently or violating administrative regulations.

All complaints must be dealt with and a response will be given within three days of the complaint being lodged. For complaints about major administrative violations, the center may investigate directly and send staff to prosecute an inquiry at the scene.

Complaints can be made by telephone by calling 8367 1199, by mail sent to No. 9 Xisanhuan Nanlu, Fengtai District, Beijing 100073, or online at www.bjsupervision.gov.cn.

Public Security Review

Beijing police's 110 emergency hotline received fewer calls this week than the preceding week, with thefts seeing a decrease of 18 percent. A total of 266 criminal suspects have been apprehended after investigations.

Break-ins mostly occurred late at night at Laiguangying, Pingfang, Wali and Cuigezhuang in Chaoyang; Fusuijing and Dewai in Xicheng; Fengtaizhen and Liuliqiao in Fengtai; Yongwai in Chongwen; and Beitaipingzhuang, Wanshouzi, Tianan and Qinglongqiao in Haidian late at night, while street robberies occurred most frequently at Hepingjie in Chaoyang, Liuliqiao and Yangqiao in Fengtai and Jianguomen in Dongcheng during the day.

Hujialou, Namofang, Yayuncun, Shuangjing and Wali in Chaoyang, Yuegezhuang and Majiabao in Fengtai as well as Dewai in Xicheng were the most common places for auto-related crimes to take place, mainly at night and in the early morning.

(Information from Beijing Public Security Bureau)

Nationwide Survey on Tax Concessions Underway

By Wei Lixin

A nationwide overall survey on tax concession is underway, according to a bulletin posted on the official website of State Administration of Taxation (SAT) Saturday. The unprecedented survey will continue into September, and cover the widest range of tax categories.

According to the bulletin, all corporate taxpayers that have registered by the end of 2003 will be required to complete a questionnaire on tax concessions. SAT believes that the survey will help clarify the overall situation of tax concessions, thus strengthen supervision. The primary purpose of the survey is to provide a basis for the upcoming overhaul of the tax system.

Under the current system, except for the specific tax concession policies granted by the central government, local governments have no rights to establish such kinds of preferential measures. But in a recent investigation of tax preferential policies of 2,527 development zones, more than 1,000 companies have registered within those zones in order to take advantage of tax benefits while operating outside the zones.

Airport Construction Fee to Be Paid in Advance

By Su Wei

From September 1, passengers will pay the airport construction fee when purchasing their tickets, rather than after their arrival at the airport, the Ministry of Finance and Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) announced Monday.

"The new system is convenient for passengers, especially those who might forget to purchase the fee before checking in," a CAAC spokesperson told *Beijing Today* Monday. "But it does not mean that the construction fee is included in the price of the ticket. Instead it is added to the price of the airplane ticket," he said.

The amount of the construction fee remains unchanged, that is, 50 yuan for domestic flights, 90 yuan for international flights, and 10 yuan for flight routes by Canada Regional Jet and Avro Regional Jet. Passengers who need to transfer planes should pay the construction fee at the airport where they are to transfer.

Appointment Required for British Visa Applications

By Su Wei

Students in Beijing must now make an appointment for the submission of individual visa applications for study in Britain.

The website of the British Embassy says the measure is a further step taken by the embassy to improve the overall visa application service for Chinese students, with a view to making the whole visa application process more convenient. Since January the embassy has handled over 3,500 student visa requests.

The new procedure only applies to Beijing. The date of the appointment can be set immediately for students booking by phone or within 24 hours for those booking by email. As in the past, applicants will be informed by 3 pm on the same day as to whether the visa will be issued or rejected, or whether an interview will be required.

Appointments can be made by calling 8529 6072, 8529 6079 or 8529 6082 between 8:30 and 12, or between 1 and 4, Monday to Friday, or by email, including name and passport number, to visagroupbookings@fc.gov.uk.

More Chinese Eligible for Japan Visas

By Su Wei

Chinese citizens in Tianjin, Shandong, Liaoning, Jiangsu and Zhejiang can apply for 15-day visas to visit Japan in organized groups from September 15 this year, the Japanese government announced last Friday. At present, visas are granted only to groups from Beijing, Shanghai and Guangdong.

"The move is intended to enhance mutual understanding between Japan and China and to promote a better relationship between the two nations," an official from the visa section of the Japanese embassy in Beijing told *Beijing Today* Monday.

Japanese media has quoted government spokesman Hiroyuki Hosoda as saying the measure is in line with the government's target of doubling the number of visitors from China to 10 million during the decade to 2010 under its "Visit Japan" campaign.

The number of Chinese citizens eligible to travel to Japan in groups will rise to 360 million from the current 100 million, according to local media reports.

SAIC Buys Korean Carmaker

By Chu Meng

Major Chinese automaker Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation (SAIC) signed a memorandum of understanding on Tuesday with Chohung Bank, the main creditor of Ssangyong Motor Corporation (SYMC), for the purchase of the South Korean automaker, Xinhua news service reported later that day.

Chosen as the preferred buyer after bidding closed at the end of 2003, SAIC was allowed to purchase a 48.9 percent stake in SYMC, which will make the Chinese company the largest single shareholder in the Korean carmaker after the deal is completed. Both sides are working on finalizing details and definitive agreements are expected to be signed around September.

In his Tuesday statement, Hu confirmed that SYMC's existing management team and employees would keep their jobs after the acquisition went through.

"SAIC is the market leader in China for the production and sale of passenger vehicles and parts, and SYMC is the market leader in the SUV (sports utility vehicle) segment in South Korea, both of which are highly complementary," Hu said.

Ssangyong was put up for sale early after it separated from Daewoo Group, which dissolved under heavy debts in 1999. Creditors took control of the automaker through



Ssangyong Motor workers staged a sit-in and shouted slogans on January 27 on the grounds of their factory in Pyeongtaek, 70 kilometers south of Seoul. Ssangyong's workers' union arranged a half-day strike to protest a deal to sell the ailing South Korean automaker to a Chinese company.

AFP Photo

debt-for-equity swaps.

The company has an annual production capacity of 180,000 luxury sedans and SUVs and holds a near 10 percent share of the South Korean market.

In December, creditors first named Chinese chemical company China National Bluestar Corp. their preferred buyer, but the deal fell through in March over differences

in price and questions of whether Bluestar had obtained necessary approval from the Chinese government for its investment plan.

SAIC grabbed that opportunity to pitch itself as the only company with Chinese government approval to invest in Ssangyong. According to reports in the South Korean media, SAIC submitted the second-highest offer after Bluestar in the

bidding process.

One of China's largest state-owned enterprises, SAIC earned \$11.7 billion in sales revenues in 2003, enough to put it on the latest Fortune Global 500 list. The company is preparing to launch an IPO in Hong Kong with the backing of Deutsche Bank AG, Merrill Lynch and Morgan Stanley, Bloomberg reported early this year.

Milk Magnate Under Strict Scrutiny

By Sun Yongjian

Giant milk maker Yili Holding Group Co. announced at the Shanghai Stock Exchange last Thursday that the China Securities Regulatory Commission had launched an investigation of the company the day before for suspected violation of securities regulations.

Hohhot, Inner Mongolia-based Yili Group has drawn the attention of authorities since June and according to some reports, officials from the Securities Regulatory Office of Inner Mongolia even secretly talked with some company board directors and executives on June 22 about the pending investigation. Those reports were confirmed by Wang Bin, one of Yili's three independent directors on Monday.

He said that company investments in national bonds beginning in November 2002 brought Yili's debts to over 20 million yuan by June 16 this year, but that had not halted the investment and Yili had since purchased another 116 million yuan of bonds.

Yili subsidiary Muquanyuanxing purchased another 229 million yuan of national bonds after 280 million yuan of capital was moved to the company from Yili group, Wang said. He said the deal resulted in losses of around 9 million yuan.

Investigations have also shown that family members of top Yili executives hold a previously-known over 17 million shares in the company, Wang said.

Yu Bowei, one of Yili's three board directors, was forced to resign by Yili's provisional board of supervisors on June 16 without going through necessary legal procedures, he added.

An insider of the company who asked to be unnamed told *Beijing Today* on Wednesday that Yu was going to file suit against Yili.

A Mr. Li from Yili's board office said the company's basic condition was still sound.

Olympic Franchise Stores to Open in Beijing

By Su Wei

Ten stores designated as franchises for vending official Olympic retail items are set to open in Beijing next month with the approval of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG). The committee announced on Monday that

sales would start at the stores as part of a one-year trial in the run-up to the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

The ten stores include Beijing Wangfujing Department Store, three terminals at Beijing Capital International Airport, Chung-Yo Department Store in Xidan, Beijing Modern Plaza near Zhongguancun and Guiyou Mansion in Jian-guomen. All stores have been given unified appearances and boast signs that they are authorized Olympic franchises.

The official Olympic goods available at the outlets will include clothing, stationary, handicrafts and badges, with prices averaging around 200 yuan to

The first copy of criteria for the domestic digital camera industry will be issued in October, aiming to clean up China's chaotic digital camera market. Approximately 20 million digital cameras are expected to be sold in China this year.

Photo by Photocome

Dow Jones, First Finance to Launch Index in China

Dow Jones and First Finance Media Co. will launch a composite benchmark index, the Dow Jones First Finance China 600 index, in September, according to a statement issued by Shanghai-headquartered FFMC on Tuesday.

The new composite index will include indices of key listed companies on the Shanghai and Shenzhen stock exchanges. The same standards for all Dow Jones global indices will apply to the new index, whose compilation will be identically to the Dow Jones STOXX 600 Index that tracks Europe's 600 largest listed companies.

By incorporating the largest listed firms in the Chinese market into one composite index, the Dow Jones First Finance China 600 would make a clear and transparent benchmark for market evaluation and would provide valuable information on the Chinese market, one of the most important markets in the world.

said Lars Hamich, managing director of STOXX, a Dow Jones joint venture for business development in Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

The new China index will be published daily in the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Asia Wall Street Journal*, First Finance Media's TV programs and *First Media Daily*, a newspaper set to debut October 18.

The Dow Jones First Finance China 600 is going to be the first composite index to cover both Shanghai and Shenzhen bourses, and will play a strategic role in qualifying First Finance as a professional financial information provider," said FFMC Chairman Li Ruigang.

Li said the index would be compiled on the share prices of China's top 600 listed companies and would become part of the DJ global 1800/600 indices that track altogether 1,800 listed companies in Europe, the US and the Asia Pacific region.

First Finance's TV channels, the only financial channels to target professional investors in China's interior regions, broadcast live, 12-hours-a-day at all major banks and futures companies in Shanghai 12 hours a day.

(Xinhua)

PetroChina Planning Massive A-Share Issue

By Sun Yongjian

Rumors that Hong Kong-listed PetroChina is planning to issue 10 billion A-shares on the domestic stock market have been confirmed by the company, the *Beijing Morning Post* reported on July 27.

Bi Jianguo, head of PetroChina's public relations department, told that newspaper the exact timetable for the issue had yet to be set.

PetroChina is the biggest subsidiary of China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), China's largest producer and supplier of crude oil and natural gas, and holds a dominant position in the domestic petroleum production, processing, and marketing sectors. The company is likely to attract around 30 billion to 40 billion yuan through the issue, according to the *Beijing Morning Post* article.

The UK-based *Financial Times* reported on July 26 that PetroChina had filed an application for the A-share issuance to the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC), but the CSRC has refused to confirm the news.

The move has the potential to have the highest ever yield of a share issue in China, surpassing the 11.8 billion yuan haul of Sinopec Corp. in October 2001. With its limited scale, the domestic stock market could struggle to handle an issue of this size, several market analysts told *Beijing Today* on Tuesday.

The underwriters of the deal are China International Financial Co., CITIC Co. and Galaxy Securities Co.

Agricultural Bank Puts Brakes on Car Loans

By Xie Lixue

Despite holding the biggest share of China's auto loan market, the Agricultural Bank of China announced Wednesday that it was scaling back on lending for vehicle purchases, *Beijing Youth Daily* reported Thursday.

The bank has called for thorough investigations of all car retail outlets covered by its loan program and has said it would stop cooperating with any deemed "unqualified." The new policy entails a complete moratorium on loans for purchases of commercial cars, such as taxis, passenger buses and construc-

tion and agricultural vehicles, *Beijing Youth Daily* said.

Two years ago, the Agricultural Bank launched eight-year auto loans in which customers could pay just 10 percent of the price in the first year and enjoy a 10 percent interest reduction. The loans proved very popular and allowed the bank to dominate the market, but problems arose as the policy developed.

The bank stated Wednesday that the changes of its auto loan policy would not effect its overall loan business, as it was targeting the lucrative personal car loan segment.

Dual Currency Credit Cards Hit Market

By Sun Yongjian

Fujian Province-based Industrial Bank began issuing this country's first dual-currency credit cards in Shanghai on July 21, the Xinhua News Agency reported last Saturday.

"These new credit cards accord with international standards," bank President Li Renjie told Xinhua.

The cards can be used to purchase items or make cash withdrawals in more than 200 countries and regions around the world. They are true credit cards, meaning they do not require standing savings ac-

counts for use, and are valid for charges made in renminbi and US dollars.

Free exchange within a range regulated by the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) can be realized between the two accounts in accordance with relevant exchange rates, an employee of the bank's credit card department told *Beijing Today* on Tuesday.

"There are two types of this kind of card, average cards and gold cards," he said. "Average cards have a maximum credit line of 20,000 yuan, while gold cards go up to 50,000 yuan."

Western Union Lands in Tianjin

By Su Wei

Major international money transfer and message service provider Western Union has expanded its presence in the East by opening a flagship agent in Tianjin in conjunction with Chinese partner China Post, Xinhua reported Tuesday.

The new business would focus on helping customers move money across China and outside the country and allow payment

using money orders and other electronic systems, Xinhua said.

More than 170,000 Western Union agent locations operate in over 190 countries around the world, including 12,500 agents set up across this country with China Post since their cooperation began in 2001. Western Union handles nearly 250 million money orders a year for revenues of around \$3 billion.

Government Fines Foreign Bank

By Sun Yongjian

The China branch of Hong Kong-based Concord Bank is facing a fine of 900,000 yuan in Zhejiang Province for violating state regulations, the *21st Century Economic Reporter* said on July 25. Industry watchdog the China Bank Regulatory Commission (CBRC), the organization imposing the fine, confirmed the news to *Beijing Today* Thursday.

The fine was levied due to failure to keep up with CBRC-required reforms and the ex-

tension of excessive lines of credit to certain enterprises between late 2002 and September 2003, a staff member of the commission's news department said.

Notification of the fine was sent to the bank on June 30.

Tao Shenchang, Concord Bank president, told the *21st Century Economic Reporter* that different understandings of the meaning of "credit extensions to certain enterprises" caused the discrepancies in question.

Iron Giants Guilty of Tax Evasion

By Sun Yongjian

Investigations conducted by the State Administration of Taxation (SAT) have proven that three major Jiangsu Province-based iron producers evaded 294 million yuan in due tax payments, the Xinhua News Agency reported last Saturday.

The three guilty enterprises are Jiangsu Tieben Iron & Steel, Changzhou Yinglian

Iron & Steel and Changzhou Sanyou Rolling Factory.

The SAT announced July 24 that its two-month investigation showed all three enterprises had violated national tax laws and the case had been handed over to police.

So far, 16 suspects, including the former chairman of the board and vice general manager of Jiangsu Tieben, have been arrested, Xinhua reported.

Wells Start Pumping at First Sino-US Oil Field in Bohai Bay

By Chu Meng

Kerr-McGee China Petroleum Corp., the China branch of one of the world's largest independent oil and natural gas prospectors, announced on July 20 that wells in China's Bohai Bay had begun pumping oil on July 18, Xinhua reported last Friday.

Gross oil production from the company's two Bohai fields should reach 15,000 to 20,000 barrels per day within the next month and expand to a planned 45,000 barrels a day as more wells are dug by 2005.

"Based on performance of initial wells, we expect the maximum rate of these fields to exceed our development plan projection and produce in excess of 50,000 barrels per day in 2005. We expect to see a further ramp up in production as we develop other discovered fields in our China blocks over the next several years. Additionally, we have almost 700,000 lightly explored acres with many additional identified prospects," Watford said.

leum, parent company of Kerr-McGee Petroleum.

Ultra holds a nine percent stake in the project, fields operator Kerr-McGee China Petroleum a 40 percent interest and domestic partner China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) a 51 percent stake.

"Based on performance of initial wells, we expect the maximum rate of these fields to exceed our development plan projection and produce in excess of 50,000 barrels per day in 2005. We expect to see a further ramp up in production as we develop other discovered fields in our China blocks over the next several years. Additionally, we have almost 700,000 lightly explored acres with many additional identified prospects," Watford said.



Two people walk past the Google Inc. headquarters in Mountain View, Calif., Monday.

AP Photo

Is Google Worth It?

a great position in the search market now."

Competition gets serious

But, she continues, Google's revolutionary technology is only one factor behind its success. "Up until recently, Google has had virtually no real competition."

Yahoo, for example, had been licensing Google's technology before it developed its own this year. Meanwhile, MSN has introduced its own proprietary search technology, which – while still in beta – holds good promise.

Another problem is that the search market could well become saturated unless innovations develop more advantageous keyword real estate for advertisers. For sure, Google is working on this. But then, so are its competitors, and they are in some ways better positioned to ride the next wave of search-engine innovation. Consider enhancements to personalized search. Yahoo and MSN, with their base of registered users, are better positioned to offer personalized search services.

July 27, (CIO Today) - Google's initial public offering is being billed as Wall Street's most breathlessly awaited tech issue for the year. Yet even amid these high expectations, the company's recent filing with the SEC has turned more than a few heads. Its price per share – \$108 to \$135 – could be the highest ever for a US company.

By selling 24.6 million shares, Google could raise about \$1.66 billion, giving it a market capitalization between \$29 billion and \$36 billion. Street watchers,

stock pickers, financial analysts and, no doubt, competitors all are raising the same question in the wake of these grand plans: Is Google worth it?

New factors

While declining to comment on the company's valuation, Forrester analyst Charlene Li does have this to say about its past and future performance: "The competitive factors that helped Google develop into the amazing company that it is today will not be present going forward."

Simply put, the search land-

scape is changing – both in terms of competitors and users – and Google is entering uncharted territory.

Of course, Google basically charted most of this territory thus far, knocking the early search pioneers, such as Yahoo, Alta Vista and Lycos, clear out of the water.

"Google's search technology is excellent," Li tells NewsFactor. "They do a great job helping users find what they are looking for. It is why so many people use them and why they have such

EU Textile Companies Fear Oriental Onslaught

Brussels (Financial Times), July 26 - The mood among Europe's textile and clothing companies could hardly be worse. In less than five months they will have to engage in head-to-head competition with the factories of China and India after their abolishing textile quotas.

European company owners fear that the abolition of import restrictions on products from China and India will destroy their businesses.

The key, according to the European Commission experts and independent analysts, will be to switch as much production as possible away from low-value bulk goods such as socks and T-shirts and into goods in which Europe still enjoys a competitive advantage.

The European Union is still the world's largest textile exporter and ranks second in exports of clothing. Some believe that these developments, along with decades of painful modernization efforts, mean that EU manufacturers will not only survive but could also benefit from change.

Analyst's Take:

In fact, after the EU's removal of quotas for China's textiles, China will not only face benefits but also many risks from international trade competition.

It is impossible for China to flood the world textiles market as it is largely focused on just the low and middle-end of the market. If China expands at its current rate, namely expanding by quantity, after the quota elimination it would create a huge demand for cotton and drive up the cost of cotton imports. In that case, surging cotton prices would blunt China's edge in terms of cheap and large quantities of textile goods and push foreign buyers to other countries.

- Sun Huabin, vice director-general of the Department of Industry from China National Textile Industry Council

(Chu Meng)



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II leaves the new London Stock Exchange building after her visit, Tuesday July 27, 2004. The queen, who was accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, formally opened the new building by switching on 'The Source,' a specially commissioned artwork reflecting the nature of financial markets in the electronic age.

Xinhua Photo

South Korean Capital Spending Slumps

July 26 (Financial Times) - South Korean capital expenditure fell to its lowest level since the country's 1997-98 financial crisis in the first quarter of this year, highlighting the weakness in Asia's fourth-largest economy.

Corporate spending has plunged over the past two years because of weak domestic consumption and political uncertainty surrounding President Roh Moo-hyun's reform-minded administration. Another factor has been the loss of investment to China and other low-cost countries.

South Korea's central bank said the ratio of capital expenditure to gross domestic product fell to 8.9 percent in the first quarter of 2004 – the lowest level for six years.

South Korea recovered more quickly and strongly than any other Asian country from the financial turmoil in 1997 and 1998. But the recovery was driven by an unsustainable surge in credit

fuelled consumer spending, which ground to a halt last year beneath a mountain of household debt.

Analyst's Take:

South Korea has had an unstable political environment resulting from President Roh Moo-hyun's reforming moves and pursuit of an anti-business agenda.

The anti-business agenda which refers to a governmental campaign against corruption and corporate malpractice among the giant family-owned conglomerates has created a climate of fear in the business community, though many foreign investors have welcomed the efforts to improve the country's corporate reform.

However, the corporate reform has served the short-run effect of making businesses cautious about investing and hiring, interrupting the transmission of export strength into domestic demand.

On the other hand, too many strikes by South Korea's powerful labour unions are widely cited as another blow to business activity.

- Jia Baohua, Economic Research Institute for Asia of University of International Business and Economics

Record Profits at South Korean Banks

July 26 (Financial Times) - South Korean banks generated record net profits in the first half of this year because of increased interest income and reduced corporate failures, despite continued weakness in Asia's fourth-largest economy.

The strong performance suggested South Korean banks had turned the corner following last year's surge in bad loans to consumers, combined with a multi-billion dollar accounting fraud at SK Networks, an oil trading company. Combined net profit at the country's 19 local banks, including Kookmin Bank and Woori Bank, rose almost fivefold.

But rising defaults by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) have posed a fresh threat to South Korean banks during recent months as the hangover from last year's household debt crisis continues to depress domestic consumption.

However, the financial regulator said bank profits would expand in the second half, helped by increased commission fees and growth in non-bank businesses such as asset management.

Analyst's Take:

We should be aware first that the increase is a restorative one, but not a real economic surge. Although domestic spending is likely to remain weak, banks' earnings should improve because they don't need to make any more big provisions.

Non-performing loans related to small and medium-sized enterprises will continue to increase because small businesses were exposed to weakness in domestic demand. But bad SME loans will prove less damaging to the banks than those to consumers. Unlike consumer lending, banks have more expertise in dealing with SMEs than they had in dealing with consumer lending.

- Ying Weiwei, director-general of the Research Institute of International Finance and Business of Beijing Foreign Studies University

(Chu Meng)

Mitsubishi Merger Mucked-up

July 27 (Bloomberg) - Mitsubishi Tokyo Financial Group Inc.'s plan to merge with UFJ Holdings Inc., creating the world's largest bank, may be jeopardized after a Tokyo court barred UFJ from including its profitable trust business in the discussions.

The court said in a statement it ruled in favor of Sumitomo Trust & Banking Co., which claimed it signed a prior agreement in May to buy the bulk of UFJ Trust Bank Ltd. UFJ Holdings, Japan's fourth-largest lender, said it will appeal the ruling.

Osaka-based UFJ said it wanted to rescind the sale to Sumitomo Trust of a business that offers asset management, stock custodial and inheritance services in favor of a full merger with Mitsubishi Tokyo, Japan's second-largest lender.

UFJ President Ryosuke Tamakoshi said this month a merger with Mitsubishi Tokyo that didn't include the trust business wasn't an option for the banks as they want to



UFJ Bank President Takamune Okihara (C), flanked by his aides, speaks at a press conference in Tokyo on July 28.

Photo by Photocome

combine their corporate lending, securities and asset management operations. Mitsubishi Tokyo and UFJ have a combined 188.7 trillion yen (\$1.73 trillion) of assets, larger than those held by Citigroup Inc.

Job Cuts Hit DuPont Profits

New York, July 27 (Reuters) - DuPont Co., the No. 2 US chemicals maker, on Tuesday said quarterly profit fell after taking charges of \$302 million for job cuts and the sale of its carpet and textiles business.

But quarterly sales rose and the company increased its full-year earnings outlook, citing slower but continued growth in industrial production.

The Wilmington, Delaware-based company posted second-quarter net income of \$503 million, or 50 cents per share, compared with \$675 million, or 67 cents per share, a year earlier.

The staff reductions are part of a \$900 million cost-cutting program announced in late 2003 to combat the high costs for natural gas and oil, which DuPont needs to run its plants and make chemicals.

Japan Post Looks Forward

July 26 (Daily Yomiuri) - Public Management Minister Taro Aso said Friday the nation's postal services could be run by a holding company following the planned privatization of Japan Post in 2007.

"The privatized entity could be run by a holding company. But that doesn't necessarily mean that the three postal services have to be run by one integrated entity," he said.

Aso said he was willing to accept mail delivery, postal savings and insurance services being run by separate companies as long as capital ties were maintained using some form of holding company.

He strongly rejected the suggestion that the companies would be run as entirely separate entities.

According to the NASD, a group that regulates brokerages, the four companies marked up bonds by as much as 32 percent, when the legal limit is generally 5 percent.

The NASD fines involved institutional investors like mutual funds or pension funds, which on average face transaction costs in the corporate bond market that are comparable to those in the stock market, said Arthur Warga, dean of the University of Houston's C.T. Bauer College of Business.

Reynolds Shareholders OK B&W Merger

Winston-Salem, July 28 (AP) - R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. shareholders gave their blessing Wednesday to a \$4.2 billion merger with Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp., a deal that will create a new tobacco company, Reynolds American Inc., with about one-third of the US cigarette market with brands including Camel, Kool, Salem and Lucky Strike.

R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company is the second-largest tobacco company in the United States, manufacturing about one of every four cigarettes sold in the country. Brown & Williamson is another leading tobacco company in the US, founded by brothers George Brown and Robert Williamson in 1800s.

R.J. Reynolds makes the Camel, Winston, Salem and Doral brands, while Brown & Williamson sells Kool, Lucky Strike, GPC and Capri brands. Brown & Williamson is a unit of British American Tobacco PLC of Britain.

RJR's purchase of Brown & Williamson will put Reynolds American behind only Richmond, Va.-based Philip Morris USA, which has about half of the US market with brands led by Marlboro.

RJR will hold a 58 percent controlling stake in the new company, which is expected to generate annual sales of about \$10 billion. The full integration of RJR and Brown & Williamson is also expected to result in more than \$500 million in annual savings, company officials said.

Train Race Saves Life

By Zhou Ying

Last-ditch efforts by doctors and railway authorities cleared the way for a dying man to travel from Nanchang, Jiangxi Province, to Beijing on Tuesday in time for life-saving surgery.

The lucky man, Gan Tao, boarded train T168 on Monday, accompanied by his family and doctor Zhang Hengwu. Gan was scheduled to undergo surgery at a local hospital on Tuesday for a life-threatening condition affecting his aorta, but the urgent trip was endangered by unexpected events.

"We were informed that the train was changing route on Tuesday because another

train had derailed ahead. That would have put the train in Beijing at 4 pm that afternoon, and we did not have enough medicine to last that long," Yuan Hui, Gan's wife, recalled in an interview with *Beijing Youth Daily* Tuesday afternoon from Fuwai Hospital in Xicheng District.

Yuan said she, her husband and the doctor were extremely nervous on hearing the news, as Gan could have died quickly if not properly medicated. "We told people around us about the situation, and everyone helped us," she said.

Upon learning of the predicament, a top train au-

thority gave orders for all other trains to make way for T168 and arranged an unscheduled stop at Baoding station so medicine could be brought to Gan.

The 21-hour ordeal ended at 3:30 pm on Tuesday when the train pulled into Beijing West Station, Yuan said. "To our surprise, an ambulance was waiting for us outside the station," she recalled.

Gan is currently undergoing treatment at Fuwai Hospital.

Yu called her husband's survival a miracle. "I have made a list of the names of all the people who helped us. I will always remember them," she said.



Gan Tao is recovering from surgery with the support of his wife. Photo by Wang Xiaoxi



Pop! Go the Tires



Air China Flight Diverted in Bizarre Hijacking Try

By Dong Nan

An Air China plane with 108 passengers bound from Beijing to Changsha, Hunan Province, had to make an emergency landing on Monday morning in Zhengzhou, Henan Province due to an unusual "hijacking" attempt.

At 9:30 am that morning, one hour after flight CA1343 took off, a man in his 30s followed a steward to the plane's galley and told him that he was carrying sulfuric acid and wanted the plane to divert to South Korea, the Xinhua news agency reported.

The alert steward noticed the man was holding nothing in his hands and called for help from an onboard air marshal, who easily subdued the would-be hijacker.

Though the situation was quickly brought under control, the Boeing 737-300 still made an emergency landing at Zhengzhou's Xinzheng airport around 10 am.

Airport police boarded the plane and arrested the man. Repeated searches failed to turn up any acid or other potential weapons onboard.

As he was being dragged from the plane, the man kept shouting, "I was just kidding! It was just a joke!" according to Xinhua.

Around 1:30 pm, the plane took off again and arrived in Changsha one hour later.

"When the plane landed at Zhengzhou, I think most of the passengers did not realize what was happening and thought we had arrived at Changsha," passenger Lei Meilan was quoted as saying in the Xinhua report. "When I saw police taking the man off the plane, I knew something must have happened and felt pretty scared. Later, a steward told passengers about the whole situation."

According to Zhengzhou police, perpetrator Yang Jingsong, 32, is a librarian at Xiangtan University in Xiangtan, Hunan and has a record of suffering from mental illness.

A Xiangtan University spokesman sur-named Zhai told the national media later on Monday that Yang spent 20 days in the hospital in 1999 and rarely communicated with other people.

Zhengzhou police formally arrested Yang on Tuesday.

Worker Beaten in Backpay Dispute



Jiang Zhiqiang and his father
Photo by Wang Qiang

By Zhou Ying

Demanding his salary got Jiang Zhiqiang, a worker at a local brick factory, a broken left leg after his supervisor smashed him with an iron pipe. Jiang and his father have taken the case to court and hearings are scheduled to begin next month.

Recovering from the attack in a hospital in Tongzhou District, Jiang told the *Beijing Evening News* last Thursday that he and more than 20 other workers approached supervisor Li Xiujun on June 24 to demand payment of their salaries, but Li refused.

"We threatened to go on strike if he didn't pay us, and then Li picked up a thick, meter-long iron pipe and started hitting us," Jiang said. A bash from the pipe badly injured Jiang's left leg and he was later taken to Luhe Hospital for treatment.

Doctors there diagnosed Jiang with a fractured tibia, or shinbone, and decided to conduct an emergency operation for fear the wound could become infected. However, Jiang could not afford the 20,000 yuan deposit necessary for the surgery, and had to stay in the hospital and wait until the needed money came in from his factory.

His father, Jiang Haixuan, said the Kangda Law Office lent them 10,000 yuan and promised to provide free legal counsel for the case. Jiang's lawyer met with factory director Lu Jiwen several times and finally persuaded him to give Jiang 15,000 yuan to cover the surgery.

However, Jiang's treatment has already cost more than that sum and he needs another operation for the leg to fully heal.

All the employees of the factory, including supervisor Li, were hired by a private contractor brought in by the brick factory's owners.

Jiang Zhiqiang recalled that a man named Yu Qingyu persuaded him to come to Beijing to work in the brickfield this February. "He said I could earn more than 1,000 yuan per month, but I after I got there, I found out that the real monthly salary was just about 300 yuan after deducting room and board fees."

He said that he and the other workers at the brickfield actually ended up with less than 50 yuan each after a full four months. "They have yet to pay any of us," Jiang said.

Lu Jiwen told the *Beijing Evening News* last Thursday afternoon that management had done its duty by giving Jiang money to cover his operation.

"The brick factory has nothing to do with payment of the workers salaries, as it was the contractor's duty to pay them, not ours," the director said. He added that if the workers wanted to settle the matter through the law, he would see them in court.

Later, contractor Zha Guoming said he was not at the worksite at the time when Li Xiujun started beating workers with the pipe. He said that Li had run away that evening and that responsibility should fall on Li, not him.

Jiang's father said his main concern was not the salary payments owed to his son. "I just want to know who will pay for the operation. We have spent more than 23,000 yuan already, and we need another 8,000 yuan for a second procedure. I don't know where or how we're going to get that," he said.

Tickets Sales Start for China Open



By Sun Ming

Ticket agents around town starting selling passes on Wednesday for the greatly anticipated first China Open tennis tournament, scheduled to be held in Beijing September 10 to 26.

The tournament will feature top male and female players, including recent Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova, 14-time Grand Slam title winner Serena Williams, former French Open champions Juan Carlos Ferrero and Carlos Moya, and former US Open champion Marat Safin.

"We have already held a number of major events leading to the China Open, including the official China

Open launch in November 2003 attended by former US Open Champion Marat Safin and Asia's top ATP player Paradorn Srichaphan... Our next significant step is the launch of tickets for the public," said Lincoln Venancio, China Open tournament director, at a Tuesday news conference.

Two types of tickets will be available for the tournament. Center court tickets provide access to all matches, including those held on center court at the Beijing Tennis Center. Ground passes entitle holders entry to all courts other than center court.

Ground pass, priced at 40 yuan on weekdays and 50 yuan weekends, will be valid for day and evening matches, meaning fans can enjoy up to 10 hours of great tennis. Center court tickets for the men's and women's finals will fetch 1,280 each.

Good Food, Better Cause

By Chen Si

Hundreds of Chinese celebrities and other high-profile people are expected to take part in a charitable dinner intended to help AIDS victims and poverty-stricken students next Saturday evening at the Beijing Hotel.

The 2,000 yuan-a-plate "Love Makes Dreams Come True" dinner is being jointly organized by *Beijing Youth Daily*, the Beijing Charity Association and the Beijing Youth Development Foundation. All proceeds and additional donations will go towards people suffering from AIDS and poor students around China.

Among those in attendance will be well-known figures from

business, entertainment and diplomatic circles.

AIDS is a rapidly growing problem in China. While the number of cases in Beijing is relatively low, prevention and control of the disease's spread is absolutely necessary.

Another problem facing the country, particularly for the rural poor, is rising education costs. Students in some parts of China cannot afford to study beyond the nine years of compulsory schooling and cannot seek support from local or national governments for their further education.

For more information about the dinner, please call 6590 2471 or 6590 2429 (English service).

City Promises Free Treatment to Local AIDS Patients

By Zhang Wenxiao

Permanent residents of the capital infected with HIV or stricken by AIDS can look forward to free supplies of antiviral drugs, Beijing Municipal Health Bureau Director Jin Dapeng announced July 14.

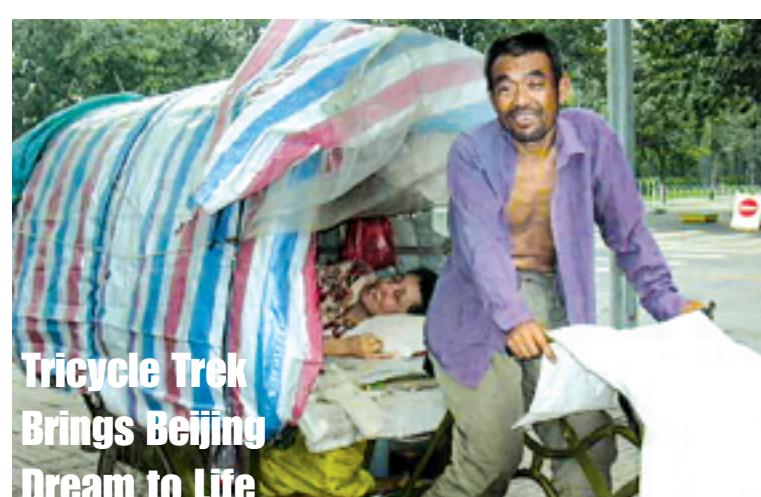
Jin indicated that Ditan Hospital and Youan Hospital, both specialists in infectious diseases, were the designated distribution sites for the free medications.

"However, hospitalization and other treatment costs will not be made free. To qualify for free antiviral drugs, patients must have permanent residency in Beijing and not be covered by hospitalization insurance. Beijing is soon

going to set up 22 new monitoring stations to control the spread of HIV." Dr. Liu from the health bureau's office of disease control told *Beijing Today* last Thursday.

Starting later this year, municipal authorities will also provide free condoms and set up blood testing stations in public places and school tuition costs will be waived for children with a parent dead from AIDS.

Nearly 1,650 cases of AIDS were confirmed in Beijing between the discovery of the first case in 1985 and the end of last year. While not very large, the number of victims is growing quickly, at a pace of around 40 percent per year.



Tricycle Trek Brings Beijing Dream to Life

By Chen Si

A Chinese man this week completed an inspiring, month-long odyssey to bring his ailing wife to Beijing on a shabby, customized motorized tricycle.

Xing-hun, 60, and his wife Huang Xiuhua made the pilgrimage from Panjin city in Liaoning Province, slowly riding during the day and bunking in their make-shift rolling shelter at night, to make Huang's dream of seeing the capital come true.

Huang has been bed-ridden with partial paralysis and coronary heart disease since being

involved in a traffic accident three years ago. "She always stayed eager to see what Beijing is like," Guo told *Beijing Daily Message* last Friday.

Since arriving in Beijing, the trip has been hampered by their limited budget, meaning they have not been able to afford entrance tickets into many famed sites in the capital. They have resorted to tooling along different streets and visiting places with no entry fees.

"Luckily, passers-by always give us help, in the form of water, clothes and other things."



200,000 yuan can pay for three weeks training for one official at Harvard

By Jiang Yongzhu

What can you do with 200,000 yuan in China? You could support dozens of students to continue their studies, pay for health insurance for hundreds of migrant workers or provide free AIDS tests for hundreds of people, perhaps. Alternatively, you could use it to pay for three weeks training for one official at Harvard.

According to a report in *Xinmin Daily*, a training program for officials called "Public Management Senior Course" with a domestic and abroad tuition section was set up last year, sponsored by China Development Research Foundation. Last year, the foundation paid 1.5 million yuan (\$180,722) for participants in the program to study at Tsinghua University. For those being sent to Harvard for three weeks, the cost was 200,000 yuan (\$24,200) each. Fortunately, US-based enterprise Andway offered \$1 million towards the cost.

This year, 60 officials from different parts of China have gathered in Beijing. They will first study in Tsinghua University for 3 weeks and then go to Harvard for seven weeks.

Training officials is not a new concept. Short-term training abroad is something quite new, but it is becoming more popular.

China Youth Daily said government officials had described studying abroad as a new trend. Beijing has sent 636 officers to study in the United States and European countries since 1999. Beijing's outlay on officials' training is currently 12 million yuan per year.

Lu Mai, President of the China Development Research Foundation

For sure, investment in training is worthwhile. Going abroad can help officials to learn the precious experience of advanced countries, and it can also widen their eyes. What's more, we are now trying to make this program more and more efficient. For example, changes are being made to the courses. This year we have added crisis management to it.

Undeniably it's a short training period. But the training class offers a basic framework of knowledge and ways of learning. It should help participants to continue to study themselves.

As for the 200,000 yuan tuition, I think a lot of people have misgivings about this high price. But the cost for the training is not borne by taxpayers. The tuition for study in Harvard is subsidized by lo-

So Pay Attention!

The existence of 'black holes' in this system is undeniable. Training programs for some officials is just like group travel paid for by the government. It's an opportunity for having fun, not learning."

200,000 yuan in China, a developing country, is not a small amount of money. We should make good use of it, instead of following trends blindly."

Since I came back from the training program, I have been longing to do something, to make good use of what I learned."

cal or foreign companies.

Mao Shoulong, professor of Renmin University, specializing in public management

The intense discussion of this issue reveals the public's concern about it. It urges us to look seriously at our current official training system.

The existence of "black holes" in this system is undeniable. Training programs for some officials is just like group travel paid for by the government. It's an opportunity for having fun, not learning.

I believe it's reasonable and necessary for officials to take training programs. But we should not continue a program without judging the result of it. And I don't mean officials' clichés such as "very fruitful and widen the horizon." What we need is scientific research into the benefits. Currently, we don't have any research into the fruits of the training program. We should build such a system to see whether the training is working or not. If it's not effective, it will be a waste to continue to pay for it so we should then adjust or stop it.

Information about officials' training programs should be available to the public. People should be able to find out about the process and the content of the training. This is critical for China to build up a more comprehensive training system.

As for the question of who should shoulder the training fee, government or companies, I think it's still open to doubt.

The past has revealed many companies bribed Chinese officials through two major ways: giving them money or providing their relatives with opportunities and funds to study or live abroad. Therefore, people have reason to suspect that funding officials studies is another version of a bribe. A better way, I believe, is to set up a special fund. Companies could donate money to the fund publicly, and officials can apply for the funds.

Li Chaoxing, Deputy director of Tianjin Commerce Committee

I got to learn many things, even though there weren't many absolute answers. When I came back, my colleagues asked me to tell them what I had learned. I said it was hard to say since the answers to a question were

not as simple as one plus one equals two.

Since I came back from the training program, I have been longing to do something, to make good use of what I learned. In the past, we always advocated the idea that a leader who can stay in his position 300 days a year is a good one, but now my concept has changed. I am now thinking of the more in-depth services that should be provided by government officials. We should contribute our efforts to the goals that could not be fulfilled by single enterprises. For instance, Tianjin has launched a reform of traditional industry. We are still exploring.

Wu Keming, Vice mayor of Wuhu, Anhui province

Those were some terribly busy days in the US. During the day time we took courses and in spare time I searched for learning materials. I still study the papers and work I brought back.

It's important to be there and see how their government works. I visited places such as Salt Lake City. I was highly impressed by the way the local government serves the people and investors.

After I came back, I continued my study of public services. The mayor of our city speaks highly of my work and now the concept of "government as the servant" is being spread here.

Yang Feng, Xinhuanet Reporter

Going abroad is not the only means of studying. Nowadays there are so many ways of learning. Experience and advanced knowledge can be gained through the Internet, compact disks and tapes. Why should we travel a long distance and spend a lot of money to get things we can gain at home?

Chinese officials are meant to be working in China, so the situation of China is very important to them. The quality of a leader should not be judged from whether he or she has received overseas training.

200,000 yuan in China, a developing country, is not a small amount of money. We should make good use of it, instead of following trends blindly.

Cadres on the Lookout

By Chen Si

The ruling last year by Zhijiang Tax Office, Hubei Province, that cadres of the middle level or above should resign if found to have had an extramarital affair has not yet claimed any victims, reported *Wuhan Morning Post* on July 20. But the idea is still controversial.

"Although one's life style is a matter of moral choice, it can be a problem if a cadre displays non-standard behavior," said Liang Benyuan, director general of Zhijiang Tax Office. "This regulation does not mean we have a big problem with this matter, just that we want to prevent unexpected problems."

However, the regulation is still divisive. Some people quite agree with it, saying that extramarital affairs are not consistent with the moral code for ordinary people, let alone cadres who should observe stricter rules regarding their lifestyle. But some people think it's too strict, that extramarital affairs are a personal matter with no relation to one's work, and that others shouldn't interfere. Opinions follow:

Cai Qing, a postgraduate from Peking University

I cannot agree with the regulation. Work is work, and love is love. Extramarital affairs are just a personal affair, and it's also related to a human's rights. So long as he or she has the ability to work, that is enough. Only when his or her extramarital affair affects their work or has a bad influence on other people should there be any punishment. Even if a cadre has an extramarital affair, at most it is against Marriage Law, which has nothing to do with his work. Many people drive cars on the street; if you break the traffic law, does it mean you should resign from your job? What about the former US president Bill Clinton? He also had an extramarital affair with Monica Lewinsky, but he continued his work as president just because he made great contribution in his work. He developed the US a lot.

Chen Guang, a resident in Chaoyang district, Beijing

I don't think the idea that work and love are totally separate can stand up. Of course, there is a strong relationship between the two things. I believe over 80 percent of those who have extramarital affairs are cadres and extramarital affairs result from the power they have. Most cadres' extramarital affairs involve power-sex deals, and that is why their extramarital affairs should be punished by law while for ordinary people such affairs are just scolded. If one can have an extramarital affair, that means they have slack morals. How can such a person be a model for other citizens?

Qiao Xinsheng, professor of Zhongnan University of Economics and Law

To some degree, this regulation can protect public interests better. Some people may think Zhijiang Tax Office has no right to intervene in a cadre's life outside his working hours. However, as civil servants hold the nation's public powers, behavior outside those eight hours can still harm the public interest. The fact is that some cadres do break laws when off duty. So making some regulations to govern their moral behavior is necessary. Besides, this regulation can also protect cadres themselves. Without warning from the beginning, some may end up breaking the law or even committing a crime.

Yu Lan, a civil servant working for Beijing Municipal Government

In China, a cadre is equal to a civil servant. I'm a civil servant. I know that with our salaries it's hard for a civil servant to maintain a relationship with a lover. So we should realize that if a cadre can have an extramarital affair, it probably involves power or bribery. I think this regulation should be popularized around the whole country. And what's more, I don't think cadres who break the rule should resign; they should be laid off. If a cadre does not have a good relationship with his spouse he can get a divorce.

However, it is easier said than done. Right now there is no good way to deal with such a problem. How can one know if a cadre is having an extramarital affair? It's hard to find evidence. There are so many corrupt cadres that don't get punished, not to mention the extramarital affairs that go on. Zhijiang Tax Office said they didn't discover any extramarital affairs since the regulation was put into practice. But we know "didn't find" does not mean there weren't any.

Paulyn Liew, Australian, working for a local accounting company

In my company, there is no such regulation. Law and morals are two different things; we can't mix them together. An extramarital affair is not rape or bigamy, not having a concubine. Not every extramarital affair destroys a family, and it doesn't necessarily harm society. The cadre is a human being first. He has all kinds of emotions like ordinary people. The requirements for a cadre should be to serve the people and be diligent and honest in government affairs.

Wen Jinzhou, secretary of the party committee of Nanjing Automobile Group

We cadres are people's models. To be a cadre, one should be a human first and learn how to conduct oneself. How can a person who is irresponsible to his family be responsible to society and the people? We should place stricter requirements upon ourselves than on ordinary citizens. Some things the common people can do, but cadres can not do. We have privileges, and have something that the common people do not, so it is fair to resign when we have extramarital affairs and do something wrong. If I have an extramarital affair, I'm willing to resign.

Li Peng, manager of Arena media management Co. Ltd., Beijing

Well, what a big number of excellent cadres would have to resign if the regulation takes effect! In fact, this regulation shows a weak understanding of legal discipline. And is it the case that only the people who have extramarital affairs are disloyal to their family and marriage? What about those who would like to have an affair but don't succeed, or those who don't want to have an affair but are not interested in maintaining their marriage? I don't understand how they judge this matter. It is only for show.

By Dong Nan

We do not want to bribe people, we just have no choice," said Liu Ying, a former Guangdong manager of an international supermarket company to *Asia Pacific Economic Times*, a Guangdong based newspaper. "Many international corporations do this in China, and they have a tacit understanding of the need for it."

Foreign corporations have apparently become familiar with this unwritten convention of the Chinese market and seem happy enough to go along with it. According to economist He Jun of Ambound Group, an independent economic analysis agency, cases of bribery involving foreign companies have risen consistently in China over the last 10 years.

Asia Pacific Economic Times recently released a report based on research they conducted into such cases and the various methods foreign corporations have adopted in bribing their way into China.

Recent cases

Probably the biggest recent case to hit the headlines was what happened in Lucent this April. On April 8, the US-based company announced it had fired four executives at its China operation, including the president, the chief operating officer, a marketing executive, and a finance manager, due to possible violations of the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

Though the possible violations were not spelled out in detail, *The New York Times* noted that the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act forbids US citizens or their agents from bribing foreign officials to secure or retain business, and it requires accurate record keeping and adequate controls for company transactions.

The company said its China operation would now report to Robert Warstler, president of global sales, and a new president in China is to be named.

This June, MSD (Merck) Medicine, a US medicine corporation, lost a lawsuit with 20 of its former Chinese employees for unfair dismissal.

Last July, the Hangzhou branch of MSD fired the 20 employees saying they had given bribes to doctors, in the form of "entertainment fees".

However, the fired employees told the media that this practice was nothing new. Every year, they said, MSD held various academic seminars which gathered doctors and introduced them to new MSD products. During those seminars, MSD would pay various allowances, provide gifts for the doctors and offer "sponsor fees" to hospitals. The employees argued that the "entertainment fees" they gave the doctors was just part of this routine. They alleged the real

reason they had been fired was because MSD wanted to reduce staff numbers without paying dismiss bonuses.

"This kind of academic seminar has been a secret weapon for foreign medical corporations to develop the market in China," said one of the fired employees who didn't want to reveal his name.

Last December, Peng Muyu, former head of the provincial foreign trade department of Yunnan, was given five years in prison for taking bribes.

After the approval for Wal-Mart's project to open a business in Kunming had been set

up, Peng Muyu allowed his wife, Cheng Nan to receive furniture worth more than 100,000 yuan, a diamond ring and various other articles from Zou Lijia, a director of the proposed Wal-Mart venture in Kunming.

Wal-Mart swiftly declared this was "the individual action of Zou," and denied that Wal-Mart had anything to do with Peng's case. Zou admitted to the court that she sent those "presents" to Peng's wife mainly because "Peng actively supported our venture, and I wanted to thank him."

Various methods

During their research, Asia

Pacific Economic Times found there were various popular methods of bribery used by foreign corporations.

"Before the foreign corporations enter China, they conduct thorough market research programs over several years," said Wen Shaobo, former marking manager of Mitsubishi Battery in China to *Asia Pacific Economic Times*. "They get to know the national situation and conventions of China, and usually regard bribery as acceptable. As long as the local company does well and makes a profit, they have an easy conscience about it."

While apparently working as advisors or consultants to these branch companies, which have nothing to do with the major business of the corporation, some officials can be paid as much as one million yuan per year, according to Ye.

Another method is to offer shares, a method especially common in real estate corporations. To be able to develop land, some foreign corporations promise target officials stocks and shares in their future branches.

"Future bribery" is also favored



Patricia Russo, CEO of Lucent announced the four sackings on April 8

"We seldom talk directly to people whom we want to bribe; we go through an intermediary," said Zhang, a public communications manager who used to work in a foreign telecommunications corporation in south China. "To achieve this goal, it's good to get to know some of the colleagues, leaders or friends of the one we want to bribe."

Sometimes, more creative bribes are arranged. "Bribing with money is out of date," said Zhang. "We try to arrange something more interesting."

He told *Asia Pacific Economic Times* that he once spent 10,000 yuan to bribe the boss of one company. "He did not get the money directly, but he enjoyed the luxury we provided and felt satisfied."

"Many foreign corporations have won projects or governmental purchases by spending large amounts of money on bribery, especially in some monopoly industries like telecommunications," Ye Sheng, president of Guangzhou Jingsheng Enterprise Management Consulting Company, told *Asia Pacific Economic Times*.

Ye said the most popular and reliable method the foreign corporations used was to pay "salaries" to people by awarding them positions in bogus "affiliated businesses".

Some foreign banks would arrange for relatives, friends, or even drivers of high-ranking officials or leaders of state-owned large-scale enterprises to become "managers" or "vice presidents" of such companies, receiving, naturally, a high salary. "This is very hard for government supervisory departments to uncover," said Ye.

While apparently working as advisors or consultants to these branch companies, which have nothing to do with the major business of the corporation, some officials can be paid as much as one million yuan per year, according to Ye.

Another method is to offer shares, a method especially common in real estate corporations. To be able to develop land, some foreign corporations promise target officials stocks and shares in their future branches.

"Future bribery" is also favored

by many officials. Sometimes, as long as the two sides have a "common understanding," foreign corporations agree to provide benefits to bribees after they retire.

"Generally, foreign corporations would not break their promise," said Zhang. "They pay attention to their 'credit standing' and their 'reputation', and they are always generous."

Sometimes, if the bribery is in danger of being discovered, low-ranking Chinese employees are most likely to be used as scapegoats and fired.

Obstacles in anti-corruption work

"A major task for foreign corporations in China is communication with local governments," said Liu Ying, "and officials in business departments are key targets for bribing."

"Corrupt officials tend to prefer foreign corporations to domestic ones when it comes to receiving bribes, since they can arrange things more secretly without being found."

Liu said much of the bribery conducted by foreign corporations is done abroad, such as using accounts in Switzerland, or arranging for people to travel or study abroad. "It is easier for them to steer clear of the power of Chinese law that way. In fact, with all their experience and resources, I think many foreign businessmen are better at bribing than Chinese."

Wang Zhile, an official of China's Ministry of Commerce, pointed out to *Asia Pacific Economic Times* another difficulty in exposing bribery: most Chinese corporations would not report the bribing activities of their competitors, he said.

"Generally, without reports, bribery cannot be discovered," said Zhu Tao, a lawyer with Guangda Law Firm. "One of the major problems with commercial bribery is that it disturbs fair competition; but few corporations would sue others in the same trade based on that reason. All corporations tolerate bribing as an unwritten convention. This makes it hard for supervision departments to do anything about it."

(Source: *Asia Pacific Economic Times*)



Wal-Mart super center in Kunming

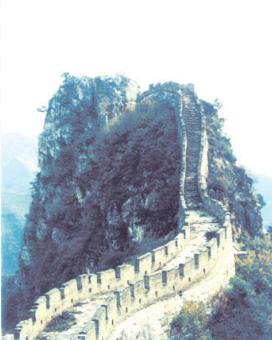
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US Security Officer Charged After Beating Chinese

By Wang Fang

A US security inspector is facing criminal charges after beating up a female Chinese tourist mistakenly suspected of being involved with a man found carrying drugs. 37-year-old Zhao Yan's eyes were nearly swollen shut and there were bumps and bruises all over her face and head following the beating, *China Daily* reported on July 26.

The incident

The incident occurred late on July 21 at the Rainbow Bridge by Niagara Falls on the US-Canadian border, after Customs and Border Protection officers confiscated marijuana from a male pedestrian.

Officer Robert Rhodes, believing the Chinese woman standing nearby was involved, sprayed her with pepper spray, threw her against a wall, kneed her in the head as she knelt on the ground and struck her head on the ground while holding her hair, according to witnesses.

"Subsequent investigation revealed that the victim had nothing to do with the marijuana smuggling but was merely a tourist who happened to be in the area," a supervisor's statement said.

Rhodes was charged with violating the woman's civil rights by injuring her, and could face up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

"I was deeply humiliated"

Zhao Yan told *China Daily* that she felt deeply shocked by the attack. "I have been to many countries in the past for business purposes, and the United States is the most barbarous," she said angrily. Her first business trip to the US will not leave many happy memories.

Zhao Yan arrived in the US on July 12 on a business trip to talk to partners in Washington D.C. and Philadelphia about her sports equipment business. She joined a tourist group to visit Niagara Falls from New York on June 21. She said when the tourist group arrived at the scenic spot, she and two other Chinese women, Huang Ning and Xie Fang, walked to the Rainbow Bridge to take some photos. They felt curious about the light from a white room nearby and went up to have a look. They saw a policeman inside and a black man lying on the ground. Just then, the policeman signalled to them to come closer. Zhao's friends asked, "Did the policeman ask us for help?" At that moment, a few security officers ran out of the room and the other two women quickly ran away. Zhao Yan did not move. She said, "I did not do anything wrong and I know it is dangerous to run away. However, I was beaten up by the US Homeland Security officer."

She remembered, "The policeman pounced at me and sprayed me with the pepper spray. Then he struck my head while holding me hair tightly. When I squatted subconsciously, he started to kick me with his boots. Then three or four other policemen came out and they also started kicking me. When I was forced to kneel on the ground, they twisted my arm and put on the handcuffs. They pushed me into a small room. At that time, I felt I could die of the pain. I could not see anything. Though my English was weak, I tried to explain to them that I was only a tourist and asked them to find a Chinese interpreter for me. No one heard my request."

In his statement, Senior Special Agent Steven MacMartin, who interviewed Zhao Yan through an interpreter several hours later, noted that "both of



Zhao Yan after the beating



Zhao's lawyer points out her injuries

her eyes were nearly swollen shut, she had a large swollen area on the front of her forehead, bruises around the eyes and a contusion high up on her forehead."

The incident threw Zhao into great panic and despair. According to friends she was staying with when she first came to New York, she had been impressed by the smiling and friendly US policemen in the street and even asked them to take a picture with her. However, she is terrified when she sees US police cars or policemen now. She even feels frightened when she hears somebody speaking English. Her friends said that every night Zhao checks to see if her door is well locked.

"She scratched me"

The officer claimed he mistakenly believed Zhao was involved in an illegal drug deal. In the statement he wrote as part of normal procedure, Rhodes said that after the male pedestrian was found to be hiding marijuana, another officer told him to go and get three women who were believed to be travelling with him.

Rhodes said he went outside and asked the Chinese woman and two other women to come into the inspection station but they ran. He said he grabbed the nearest one and sprayed her with pepper spray when she swung her arms at him.

Rhodes said the woman scratched his arm and they both fell to the ground. He said he and his colleagues decided they had made a mistake when they found Zhao's passport.

Authorities said they were going to investigate whether Rhodes had been scratched as he claimed in the incident.

Support for Zhao Yan

A US State Department official said on July 26 that Secretary of State Colin Powell had had a telephone conversation with Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing about the incident.

The Department of Homeland Security is investigating the matter," said Adam Ereli, deputy spokesman of the State Department. "We look forward to getting to the bottom of it as soon as possible."

sible." But the US official was reluctant to condemn the beating.

In his telephone call with Powell, Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing urged the United States to carry out a serious and thorough investigation into the incident.

The Chinese foreign minister demanded that "those responsible for the incident should receive legal punishment." Powell promised to inquire into the issue.

The preparatory group of the US-China Free Trade Promotion Society has also lodged a protest to the US State Department, complaining against such a serious violation of Chinese business people's human rights.

On July 23, Zhao instructed her lawyer, Stanley Legan, to begin legal proceedings. Legan said Rhodes had already been sued for assault in a court in Buffalo. Though he was bailed for US\$50,000, his job was frozen and he was prohibited from carrying weapons during the case.

Zhao said, "I want to return home as soon as possible and do not want to stay here anymore." Her lawyer suggested that she claim US\$5 million in compensation.

Legan told *Cheng Shi Kuai Bao*, a Tianjin based newspaper, that according to precedents, if an officer employed by the government has committed a crime, the government shall share joint liability. If the jury decides that the government is responsible, the compensation will be taken on in full by the government.

Legan also told *Beijing Morning Post* that according to the usual practice, if the compensation is high, then the time it takes for the lawsuit is longer. So the federal government may seek an out-of-court settlement. "With regard to this settlement, we will respect Zhao Yan's opinion. But one thing we are clear on is that should we lose this lawsuit, we will continue to appeal."

Tang Li, the chief of foreign & overseas Chinese affairs of the General Consulate of China in New York, told *Beijing Morning Post* that the US government was beginning to investigate this incident and on September 20, the case would be brought to court.

By Zhou Ying

The arrest this week of the vice-mayor of Jining in Shandong Province has reopened a mysterious story first revealed to *Beijing Youth Daily* in April when a reader named Li Yuchun sent in a letter containing several photos of a middle-aged man kneeling down with tears running down his face. To everyone's surprise at the time, the neatly dressed man turned out to be Li Xin, the vice-mayor of Jining.

On June 10, an article written by Li Xinde of China Yulin website was published on several major websites. The article described the relationship between Li Xin and Li Yuchun and alleged crimes by the vice mayor, including bribery and abduction. However, Li Xinde told *Beijing Youth Daily* that the Jining Hi-tech Industry Development Administration Committee had emailed them on June 16, saying that the article about Li Xin was a total fabrication and that the pictures were fake.

But a journalist from *Beijing Youth Daily* then showed negatives of the pictures to experts for appraisal. The experts said they were genuine and ruled out the possibility of their having been doctored. And then the government of Shandong Province disclosed that on June 24 Li Xin had been ordered to confess his crimes within a certain period.

The story caused understandable confusion among the public and raised a lot of questions. Was Li Xin guilty of the alleged crimes? If not, why would he allow a photograph to be taken of him kneeling in such a way?

Starting a company

Beijing Youth Daily interviewed 30-year-old Li Yuchun after receiving the letter in April.

She said she was the one who had taken the pictures. She said she wanted them as evidence.

Li Yuchun recalled that she first met Li Xin at a party in Shanghai two years ago. The next day, Li Xin invited her out, telling her that he was the vice-mayor of Jining City, as well as director of the Jining Hi-tech Industry Development Administration Committee. He said he wanted to launch a company together with her. However she did not agree at first.

"After I went to Jining, he continued trying to persuade me and I gradually changed my mind," Li said. She admitted to *Beijing Youth Daily* that she expected to take advantage of him at that time. "I thought it would be convenient to cooperate with an official while running a company," she added.

Li Xin went to Shanghai to see Li Yuchun in March 2002, taking a fake ID card with him. "The name on the ID card was Li Yan, but the picture on it was me! At first, I said that I could not use the card. But he insisted that it was legal, because the Public Security Bureau delivered it. Later I found out his brother was the deputy director of the local Public Security Bureau." In April 2002, a company named Kunyan Company was placed in the records of the Administration for Industry and Commerce in Luwan district in Shanghai, with 500,000 yuan in registered capital. "Actually all the money belonged to Li Xin," she said. Later, when asked about this company by the local media, Li Xin denied ever having heard of it.

According to Li Yuchun, the company had earned five million yuan by the end of 2002. "He just stocked clothes, food, and cosmetics from Shanghai, and then sold them back to the enterprises under his administration," she recalled. "During that time, we really had a very good relationship and he even promised me that we would be together for the rest of our lives."

But the good times didn't last long. "In January 2003, Li Xin gave me three cheques, with a total value of three million yuan. He asked me to enter them into the account book and cash them. He did not tell me where the money had come from." Li Yuchun told *Beijing Youth Daily* that she realized at that moment that Li Xin was trying to launder money.

Dai Yulong, the accountant for Kunyan Company, affirmed the existence of the three cheques. He said Li Xin asked him to list the three cheques in the bookkeeping accounts. "Experts would be able to tell that he was laundering money by doing so, but it is quite hard to discover," he said.

Li Yuchun began to feel uneasy and decided to go to the authorities.

From threat to kneeling down

After leaving the company, Li Yuchun began to report the situation to various related departments in Shandong Province. However, when Li Xin found out, he hired five men to kidnap her. Li Yuchun alleges that she was beaten and ordered to keep on cooperating with Li Xin.

Having been held captive for three days, Li Yuchun said she was taken to a bank in Shanghai and told to transfer the money. She sought help from the bank, and the police came to get her. After that, she did not dare return to Jining city. She went to Beijing to continue to try and draw attention to Li Xin's crimes.

In May last year, Shandong Supervision Committee started investigating Li Xin. He seemed to be aware of his dangerous situation, and changed his attitude towards Li Yuchun. He went to see her and knelt down in front of her camera four times. "He looked like another man, compared with the one that kidnapped me and hit me. In order to have evidence of this, I took some pictures of him." In addition, Li Xin wrote a guarantee to promise



that he would never harm Li Yuchun or any members of her family. According to Li Yuchun, he also paid her sister and brother-in-law 200,000 yuan to persuade them not to disclose the truth.

But this did not stop Li Yuchun from trying to expose Li Xin. She sent the pictures and the guarantee Li Xin had signed to the People's Procuratorate of China. Li Xin became angry. He invited her brother, Li Dengfeng, out, and got some strangers to beat him up. However, Li Dengfeng retaliated with a knife, and the man he injured later died. On December 8 last year, the police arrested Li Dengfeng, and he was accused of murder. According to Li Yuchun, the dead man was a relative of a local county magistrate. "We just wonder why only my brother was taken into custody by the police. The others all disappeared after the incident," she said.

On July 8 this year, the intermediate people's court in Dezhou city handed down a death sentence for Li Dengfeng with a two-year reprieve, and ordered him to pay 80,000 yuan for the dead man's family. Li lodged an appeal to a higher court last Monday. "We really felt aggrieved. If the judgment was fair, I could accept the verdict, no matter how bad," Li Yuchun said.

Li Yuchun arrested

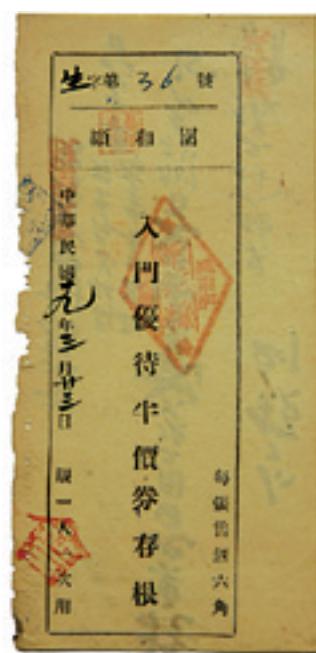
Li Xinde told *Beijing Youth Daily* that the police had arrested Li Yuchun in Beijing on June 22 this year.

"She met with me in a hotel that afternoon, expressing her appreciation for my help. Suddenly some police with Shandong accents rushed into our room, saying they were arresting her for suspected involvement in covering up her brother's crime," Li said. But they did not show any arrest warrant until three days later.

Beijing Youth Daily then contacted Li Yufen, Li Yuchun's elder sister. She said the police informed them her sister had been taken away from Dezhou detention house in Shandong Province on July 6. She also said some officials from the Public Security Bureau in Shandong Province came to her home on July 16 and said the reason they took Li Yuchun away was to protect her, but they refused to say where she is now. An insider, who refused to be quoted by name, revealed that the reason why Li Yuchun was arrested was that she had offended some officials who were related to Li Xin. However, after Li Xin was detained, she was taken away from the detention house to help related departments conduct their investigation.

Beijing Youth Daily reported this week that Li Xin had been placed under arrest by the local authorities in Jinan. It was also decided to remove his status as a People's Representative on Monday this week, following a vote by The Tenth Standing Committee of the National People's Congress in Shandong Province.

"When I was six years old, my grandfather Yehenala Zengxi took me to the palace. When we walked to the Leshou Hall, he told me, 'Grandson, this is the place where your great grandaunt Cixi lived.' When we came to the Yulan Hall, he said, 'this is where your granduncle, Emperor Guangxu, lived.'



A student ticket from 1930 ①



Tickets from April to October 2002 ②



③



④

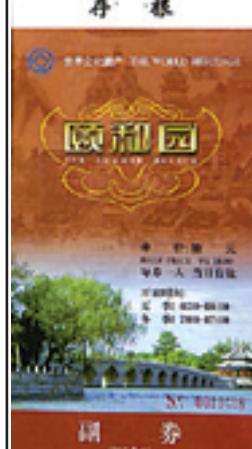


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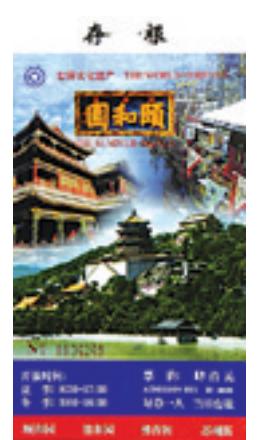


⑥

Tickets from November 2000 to March 2001



⑦



⑧

History on a Slip

By Zhang Huan

53-year-old Na Genzheng is no ordinary ticket collector. He works in the complaints office of the Summer Palace and collecting tickets to the old imperial garden has become a passion for him, partly because of a certain family connection. Empress Dowager Cixi – who invited the scorn of history by re-routing money destined for China's navy to doing up the palace's famous marble boat instead - was Na's great grandaunt.

Not that it's something his family has been able to feel too proud about. For most of Na's life, it's been an embarrassing secret. But an ironic destiny has taken him back to work for the place that was once a personal retreat for his ancestor. Na is doing his own part in piecing together the history of the Summer Palace by collecting tickets that have been issued since it was opened to the public in 1924. For more than ten years, he has been collecting the entrance tickets, invitation cards, commemorative postcards and other items issued by the Summer Palace. Kept in the bookcase at his home are almost a thousand different types of Summer Palace tickets.

Black sheep of the family

The family name of Na was changed from Yehenala, one of the most powerful family names of the late Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). Na's great grandfather, Yehenala Guixiang, was a younger brother of Cixi, the concubine of Emperor Xianfeng. After Xianfeng died in 1861, Cixi became co-regent alongside Xianfeng's wife Cian, mainly because she had given birth to Xianfeng's only son and heir, Tongzhi, who was five years old at the time of his father's death.

Cixi was later able to install her nephew, Na's granduncle, on the throne. However, Emperor Guangxu was overthrown by Cixi in 1898 when he became too reform minded for her liking. Only death was able to loosen Cixi's grip on power, her grandson Puyi becoming the last emperor in 1908.

However, this apparently illustrious family history brought little prestige in Na's childhood, only shadows. Cixi has long been criticized by historians as a despot who allowed China to wither and bow before foreign invaders while spending fortunes on her own luxury. And Na was born in the 1950s, when the whole country was fervently criticizing anything connected with feudalism. The name of Cixi would only remind people of a subservient feudal ruler. The background of the family thus became a taboo. In his childhood, Na was told not to speak to anyone about his family history and ancestors. One day when he was fighting with other boys, one of them said: "he is the great grandson of Cixi." He felt insulted and answered: "I'm not. It's you who are the great grandson of Cixi."

After graduation from junior high school in 1969, Na went to Inner Mongolia following the government's call for educated urban youth to serve the people in the mountain areas and countryside. There, for the first time in his life, his family background caused him great difficulties. At that time, the most glorious pursuit for young people was to join in the Communist Party. Na also applied. But when the Party probed his family background and found out that he was a descendant of Cixi, Na's application was rejected. What's more, his secret was out. During a casual conversation, a leader said to the other young people, "can you guess who Na is descended from?" The others shook their heads and he said,



Na Genzheng

"Cixi." Na soon found himself isolated and despised as "the descendant of the old witch."

During the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976), Na's family realized the danger they were in. "The house of my family was made up of over ten rooms which were full of valuable cultural relics. People who had visited my home said it was like a museum. But my family were worried those things might be used as evidence of feudalistic ideology. So my father had to destroy them." The valuables included about 30 portraits of Na's ancient ancestors, a big bed made of red sandalwood which was given by Empress Cixi to Na's grandfather, a photograph of the whole family taken in his grandfather's childhood, many precious ancient photographic plates, the book of the family tree and many items of chinaware and other antiques.

Grandad's revelation

Na's memories of the Summer Palace reach back to his early childhood. "When I was six years old, my grandfather Yehenala Zengxi took me to the palace. When we walked to the Leshou Hall, he told me, 'Grandson, this is the place where your great grandaunt Cixi lived.' When we came to the Yulan Hall, he said, 'this is where your granduncle, Emperor Guangxu, lived.'

Despite suffering for his family name, Na said in his heart he still feels proud of his ancestry. In his eyes, Cixi was not all bad. "I think the descriptions and reproductions of Cixi in many contemporary works have gone to extremes and have not taken an impartial historical view. In a society dominated by men, Cixi, as a woman, was able to govern the nation for half a century. She must have been extraordinary."

Because of his family background, Na is particularly interested in the history of the Qing Dynasty as well as the Manchu culture. He has studied the Manchu language and calligraphy since childhood. Though he cannot speak it any more, his Manchu calligraphy is renowned among Manchu descendants. "Now few Manchu people know their old language. Even my children don't want to study it as it has no practical use. But actually it is still important. In the archives of the Forbidden City or the Summer Palace, a lot of historical records of the early Qing Dynasty were written in the Manchu language. You have to know the language to read the records."

Na used to work at an automobile factory. By chance he got to know the leader of the Summer Palace and was later transferred to work there. "I came

to work in the Summer Palace in 1992, which was such an excitement for me. I always took the Summer Palace as my home but I never expected that one day I would come here to work."

Since 1992, Na has collected all the stories and historical records he could find about the imperial garden, and has become an expert among his colleagues, familiar with every construction and scene. They even call him "the living dictionary of the Summer Palace." Sometimes when tourists ask difficult questions about the place, the museum staff direct them to Na.

Tickets please

Na's interest in collecting the Summer Palace tickets began by chance. "We used to have a dust cart where tourists threw their garbage. Every office took turns to take the dust cart to the waste disposal plant. One day when it was my turn, I saw in the dust a piece of yellow paper. I was curious and took it out. To my surprise, it was an entrance ticket to the Summer Palace and on the ticket it read 'the 13th year of the Republic of China (1912-1949)' and 'No.63 of the first lot.' I realized it was one of the first tickets issued in 1924 when the Summer Palace first opened to the public." Na got excited and went on to search in the dust. One by one, he found many tickets of different periods. It was because on that day, the offices had organized an overall clearout of old papers. Many people threw away some of the papers from their desks including the old entrance tickets.

Na knew the tickets were very important to record the history of the Summer Palace. Before, nobody had collected them and even the Summer Palace did not have the sample tickets of different periods. He felt if he could collect all the tickets issued since 1924, it would make up a gap in the historical records of the imperial garden. Na carefully cleaned the tickets and bought an album to store them in. From then on, he began seeking out more tickets.

Na thought of the retired staff members of the Summer Palace, who probably had kept some old tickets. Na visited them one by one and always brought some alcohol or cigarettes as gifts. He told the hosts about his desire to collect the tickets and his deep feelings about his purpose. His sincerity moved many people and in this way he got many precious historical tickets and gradually his interest in the tickets became well known. "I always get on very well with my colleagues, so everybody likes to help me in collecting the tickets. Now I have already collected the representative tickets of different periods and all the tickets issued after 1992."

Behind Na's tickets, there are some interesting stories. Once the Beijing government was holding a party in the Summer Palace during the Mid-autumn Festival, inviting 300 celebrities from home and abroad. A special ticket with a value of 30 US dollars was issued to commemorate the occasion. It was the first time the Summer Palace had issued such an expensive ticket and Na decided he had to have it. Unfortunately, a leader of the Beijing government got there first. However, Na introduced himself and told his story to the leader who was so impressed he gave Na the ticket.

Having collected tickets for over ten years, Na's biggest wish now is to find the best way to show and keep them. He is considering writing a book introducing the history of the tickets or, if possible, he would like to give all his collection to the Summer Palace so an exhibition room can be set up for them.



Photos by Bao Wei

Life in Shaanxi Village, Kazakhstan

A community in central Asia descended from refugees from the Qing Dynasty keeps alive the ancient Chinese traditions of their ancestors

In a remote corner of central Asia, at the meeting point of three countries, live a group of people whose physical appearance, language and customs set them apart from their neighbors. They speak Shaanxi dialect, interspersed with many words that would seem anachronistic, even incomprehensible to many people in China today. The ballads sung by the children have a history of more than 100 years and *qin qiang*, or Shaanxi opera, remains a popular tradition. The area they live in is commonly known as "Shaanxi Village."

In 1862, during the Taiping rebellion, many Hui people (an Islamic nationality living in Shaanxi, Gansu and Ningxia) rose up against the Qing government. After the rebellion was finally crushed in 1877, Qing troops pursued a group of over ten thousand Hui people west, over the Tianshan Mountains. Thousands died during the flight, until finally, a little over 3,000 people reached central Asia, beyond the reach of the vengeful Qing army. Led by a man called Bai Yanhu, they settled in the territory of tsarist Russia.

The tsarist government granted these *dongganren* (people from the east) 4,700 hectares of land and exempted them from paying tax for ten years. They settled there, sowing seeds they had carried from their home, and prospered. After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the area they inhabited was divided between Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

With a population today of 120,000, historians refer to them as the largest emigrant group from China.

Fourty-four year old An Husai is the sixth head of the "Shaanxi Village." He is actually the head of the Donggan Association in Kazakhstan and a member of the standing committee of the Kazakhstan People's Committee and the chairman of the Shaanxi collective farm. In May, when An visited Xi'an, capital of Shaanxi Province, to attend a trade fair, he spoke to *Beijing News*.

Beijing News: Hello Mr. An! How many times have you come back to Shaanxi?

An: Nearly 30 times. I often return.

BN: Do you remember the first time you came back?

An: It was in April, 1994. I was very excited that time. I knew that we were from Shaanxi, China, but we had never seen Shaanxi with our own eyes.

BN: In Shaanxi Village, are you the first person to come to Shaanxi?

An: No. In 1989, the head of the Donggan Association of Soviet Union



An Husai, the sixth head of "Shaanxi Village."

came here. He was the first. When he returned to Kazakhstan, there was a massive meeting. He told us how beautiful the hometown was!

BN: How did he describe it?

An: He said people were all very warm. We published a back-to-home feature in our newspaper. People all wanted to come back after seeing the report, but the procedure was very difficult. It was not until later that it started to become possible, but still it was very inconvenient. Now it is much better.

BN: You are here for the West Trade Fair. How are your negotiations?

An: Very good. I've negotiated quite a few projects. The most important is education. We signed with two colleges to send students here to study the mother language.

BN: Doesn't everybody in your community speak Chinese?

An: Yes, we speak perfect Shaanxi dialect, but we have not preserved the writing. Also, the world is developing quickly and so is the language. We had no words for such things as telephone, computer and airplane.

BN: How many students do you plan to send here this year?

An: We plan to send 30

students to Shaanxi Foreign Language Institute. The Shaanxi government is giving us a favorable policy, charging our students the same fee as Chinese students. The Shaanxi school of Hong Kong Film and TV College has promised to enroll five donggan students free of charge.

BN: To date, how many students have been sent back to China to study language?

An: Sixteen. We raise funds for them to study and hope they will return to teach others the mother language.

BN: Are there any in Shaanxi Village who cannot speak Chinese?

An: Yes. There are two places far from our habitation, where the people do not speak Shaanxi dialect. One place is 300 kilometers from us and the other is 400 kilometers away. Every village has a population of 1,000 or so, but only a few old men can speak one or two simple sentences in Chinese. To solve this problem, I have assigned two teachers to teach them donggan writing.

BN: Did your people create donggan writing?

An: Yes. It was created in 1928. At first it used the Latin alphabet, and in 1958 it was changed to the Russian alphabet.

BN: What languages do the students there learn?



Brides in "Shaanxi Village" still wear the traditional hand made wedding gown.



An Husai visits local villagers in his home town in Shaanxi Province.



A group of students accompany An to study Chinese in Shaanxi. Photos by Huash Photo

and later the trade began.

BN: How are your incomes?

An: Not bad now, better than the native nationalities. Taking our Shaanxi Farm as an example, 2,000 families have over 3,000 cars.

BN: So many? What kind of cars are they?

An: Toyota, Audi and BMW are common. Cars are relatively cheap there. An Audi is about US \$4,000 and a BMW is 5,000 to 6,000 dollars. Every family has a car, and a little land, where grains and vegetables are planted.

BN: How much do you earn per month?

An: A teacher generally makes 1,200 yuan per month. Businessmen can earn more, at least US \$10,000 a year, at most \$100,000 or even a million but few can make so much.

BN: You preserve old customs very well. Could you introduce some?

An: We have preserved our wedding and funeral customs. Marriages are arranged by go-betweens.

BN: Can people not choose a spouse freely?

An: Freely? No. Even if you fall in love with someone, you must ask someone to act as matchmaker. It's not polite not to have a go-between. That is losing our traditional culture.

Source - Beijing News
Translated by Zhang Huan

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What's on DVD

By Sabu

Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen

This Disney comedy stars Lindsay Lohan. Lola (Lohan), a 15-year-old, is upset when her family moves from Manhattan to a New Jersey suburb. Lola fits in poorly with her new classmates at school, and she competes with another girl for the lead in a musical version of *Pygmalion*. When Lola's favorite rock group announces their breakup, she is determined to attend the farewell concert and party. English and French language with English, French and Chinese subtitles. Special features include deleted scenes, music video, behind-the-scenes featurette and audio commentary.

(DVD 9)



Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights

Dirty Dancing (1987) was a hit movie about romance in the Catskills that starred Jennifer Grey and Patrick Swayze. *Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights* transposes the story to 1958 Cuba, shortly before Castro comes to power. Katey Miller (Romola Garai) is an American girl, unhappy about moving to Havana until she meets Javier Suarez (Diego Luna). While preparing for a Latin ballroom dance contest, Katey and Javier fall in love. English language, with English, Spanish and Chinese subtitles. Special features include music video, deleted scenes, a theatrical trailer, cast interviews and two extra dancing scenes.

(DVD 9)



The Dreamers

Bernardo Bertolucci directed this English-language drama, which is available in two versions, one rated NC-17, the other R. The movie chronicles the quirky relationship that develops between three young adults in Paris during the 1968 civil unrest. There is lots of nudity as the trio explore their sexuality against the political backdrop. Cinephiles will delight in the many references in *The Dreamers* to old films. English, Spanish and French language with English, Spanish, French and Chinese subtitles. Extras include production notes, mini-feature about events in France, May 1968, music video and a theatrical trailer.

(DVD 9)



Reclimbing Every Mountain

By Yu Shanshan

The list of differences between Shanghai and Beijingers, perceived and imagined, is a long one, just ask anyone from Beijing, or from Shanghai. It has now emerged that there are more, many more, dedicated *Sound of Music* fans in Shanghai than there are in Beijing.

A singing group featuring neither Julie Andrews nor Christopher Plummer, billed as the Von Trapp Family Singers have just concluded a successful 38-show season in Shanghai and are heading north to Beijing for the second stop of their tour, for eight nights only!

The 1965 movie *The Sound of Music* has been a favorite in China since it was released here two decades ago. No other western musical can boast the degree of recognition that the story and characters of *The Sound of Music* have achieved in China, and any dedicated channel surfer here will confirm that there seems to be little chance of

songs like *Do-Re-Mi*, *The Lonely Goat-herd* and *Edelweiss* fading from memory any time soon. Those, and all the others we know and love but don't really need to mention by name here were long ago translated into Chinese and are now an inalienable part of the junior school curriculum.

In fact the Von Trap Family Singers and the stage show *The Sound of Music* by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein, which opened on Broadway on November 16, 1959, both predate the movie. The musical has never been staged in China, but perhaps some entrepreneur will be inspired by the touring Von Traps to rectify this oversight, in Shanghai at least.

The role of Maria is played by Jennifer Samuek, a former ballerina, who joined the group 10 months ago. Captain von Trapp is played by Jim Ballard.

Where: Beijing Exhibition Hall
When: August 13-20
Tickets: 200, 400, 600, 800, 1,000, 1,200 yuan
Tel: 8511 2700

What's on DVD

Billboard Singles Top 5



Title	Artist	Album
Confessions Part II	Usher	Confessions
Slow Motion	Juvenile Featuring Soulja Slim	Juve the Great
Burn	Usher	Confessions
Lean Back	Terror Squad	True Story
If I Ain't Got You	Alicia Keys	The Diary of Alicia Keys

Official UK Singles Top 5



Title	Artist	Album
Dry Your Eyes	The Streets	A Grand Don't Come for Free
Lola's Theme	Shapeshifters	(CD-Single)
Some Girls	J-Kwon	Hood Hop
Tipsy	Rachel Stevens	(CD-Single)
Burn	Usher	Confessions

Once again Usher finds himself in the familiar position of being on top of Billboard's Hot 100. *Confessions Part II*, his third single to hold the post this year, starts a second consecutive week at No. 1 on the singles tally, and extends the artist's time on top to 21 non-consecutive weeks. Splitting Usher's chart-topping cuts on the Hot 100 for a second week is Juvenile's Slow Motion featuring Soulja Slim. The track from his latest Cash Money/Universal set Juve the Great also trails *Confessions Part II* on the

Hot 100 Airplay list at No. 2 for the second week.

On the UK Charts, The Streets have the No. 1 single and album, just days after being nominated for the country's prestigious Mercury Music Prize. The Locked On/679 act—a.k.a. innovative English rapper Mike Skinner—saw its album, *A Grand Don't Come For Free*, move 2-1 in its 11th week on the British survey, while its second single *Dry Your Eyes* entered the chart at No. 1.

Last week's No. 1 single, *Lola's Theme* by Shapeshifters (Positiva) fell to No. 2.

WORLDWIDE

Author Says Pregnancy Won't Delay Sixth Harry Potter

LONDON -

Multi-million-selling author J.K. Rowling said Saturday she was expecting her third child but promised worldwide *Harry Potter* fans the pregnancy would not delay her writing a sixth book about the boy wizard.

"I am really delighted to say that I am expecting a third baby, who is due next year," she said on her website.

Rowling's five *Harry Potter* books have sold more than 250 million copies worldwide, and fans young and old are waiting for the next in the series titled *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*.

"Book six remains well on track and, fingers crossed of course, I don't foresee any baby-related delays or interruptions," she said.

She said there was no date for the book's completion but added she "had written a lot and I really like it."

Rowling, 38, already has a daughter, Jessica, from her first marriage, and last year had a son, David, with her second husband Neil Murray. (Reuters)

Giorgio Armani turns 70 with-out an heir apparent

MILAN - With his perma-tan, toned muscles and athletic physique, Giorgio Armani could easily pass for a much younger man were it not for his mane of snowy white hair: the internationally renowned "prince of fashion" turns 70 on Sunday. Giorgio Armani with an empire worth billions—but no heir apparent.

"At 70, my birthday present to myself is that fact that I am continuing to think and go on ahead alone, without anyone to hold my hand," he told AFP, half-joking, half serious, in an interview after presenting his latest men's collection last week.

The house of Armani started out as the brainchild of a couple: Giorgio in charge of the creative side, his partner Sergio Galleotti running the business. But in 1985, Galleotti died and the designer found himself

alone at the helm.

Straight with himself, as with other people, the chief executive of Giorgio Armani has given himself three to four years maximum to sort out the problem of his own succession. The solution he envisions is to link up his group with a financial or industrial partner capable of ensuring its survival and the independence of the Armani brand. (AFP)

Jennifer Aniston to star in new film

LOS ANGELES -

Friends star Jennifer Aniston has signed on to star in a new Miramax studios thriller movie opposite British actor Clive Owen, industry press reports.

The wife of screen heart-throb Brad Pitt has joined the cast of *Derailed*, the story of an advertising executive whose life takes a harrowing turn when he misses his train to work, according to *Daily Variety*.

Derailed, by Swedish director Mikael Hafstrom, who made the movie *Evil*, will begin filming in September in London and Chicago. It is Hafstrom's first English-language production. (AFP)

Linkin Park Heads Out on Tour

NEW YORK - Singer Chester Bennington has been staying up all night the past few weeks, even though his band Linkin Park did not start touring until Friday.

"I force myself to stay up all night before tours to get ready," Bennington told Associated Press. "We don't get off stage until 11 pm, by the time we get to our hotels it's late, and I don't want to be ready for bed when I'm on stage."

The band is known for its blend of hip-hop and heavy rock riffs. They pieced together an eclectic bunch of bands ranging from Snoop Dogg to Korn for their Projekt Revolution tour, which kicked off Friday in Cincinnati and will tour the country until September.

"Many bands won't tour with other bands because they aren't the same music, but we want to change that," he said. "We wanted to bring punk, metal, rock, hip-hop, pop, everything together to show how different and cool it all is." (AP)

Financial Boom Opens Room for Elite English Speakers



Qualified financial professionals, especially ones with excellent English, remain rare commodities in China.

Photo by Photocome

By Zhang Nan

The rapid development of China's economy and the country's entry into the World Trade Organization have generated massive demand among the domestic finance industry for top professionals capable of speaking fluent financial English. Yet few people in this country are currently up to snuff.

Missing: top business English speakers

"Although the English levels of most working staff in the financial area are high, few have truly mastered professional financial English," Liu Yuhai, director of the Shanghai Training Service Center for Needed Professional Talents, was quoted as saying by the Xinhua News Agency in March.

That Xinhua report noted that in major international financial centers, such as London and New York, professionals in the finance area make up 11.5 percent of the total workforce, and that figure is 14 percent in Hong Kong.

In comparison, the figure for Shanghai is a low three percent. The city is facing a severe shortage of personnel up to the demands of international financial development, especially when it comes to English abilities.

Similar shortages are saddling other cities of China and thereby holding back the growth of this country's financial industry.

"Although there are some people who have worked in the finance industry or studied finance abroad and come back to China to work, they are not enough to meet the needs for future development," Gao Yong, CEO of Beijing Career Development Consultant Cooperation, told the *Beijing Evening News* last month.

Future bright for financial English masters

"Elite speakers of financial English definitely have excellent career prospects," Liao Ping, consultant with Beijing Career Development Consulting, said to *Beijing Today* this Tuesday.

In the past two years, particularly after China's WTO entry, the ranks of foreign financial companies operating in China has expanded. All such companies are hungry to develop their business in this country's market, and therefore are creating many opportunities for local employees.

Besides professional knowledge, however, these companies will stress their employees' language abilities," said Liao. "In addition to employing people with solid working

experience, financial companies will regularly accept some university graduates who have good command of both professional knowledge and financial English. Such people could probably get in at management level or above."

Solution clear

The only way to foster the development of more Chinese equipped with top financial English skills is to set up more professional training courses.

"We have to train a group of people with good command of professional knowledge and financial English to enrich the working staff in the domestic finance industry," Gao Yong noted.

A few courses directly targeted at teaching financial English already exist.

In 1994, the Ministry of Education and the People's Bank of China teamed up to establish a financial English certificate, the first of its kind in China, and a related examination system. Training towards the certificate includes courses in economics, accounting, law and banking, and courses are open to all qualified candidates.

Earlier this year, the Shanghai Institute of International Finance set up training courses in financial English in cooperation with the Training Service Center for Needed Professional Talents.

"Our courses cover banking expertise, securities investment, insurance and futures," said Wang Ronghua, institute vice president. "Students go through classes in extensive and intensive English reading, writing, oral interpretation and translation."

Corporate HR



Akiyama Kazuhiro

Photo by Wang Xiaoxi

Canon China: A Relaxed, English-Speaking Environment

By Xie Lixue

On Tuesday, Mr. Akiyama Kazuhiro, vice president of Canon China and director of its human resources division, talked with *Beijing Today* about his company's corporate culture, employment environment and development in China.

Beijing Today: What is the role of the HR division in Canon China?

Akiyama: Canon is well known for its Japanese origin, however Canon China is becoming more Westernized.

As a result, the working language in Canon China is English instead of Japanese. The HR division plays a very important role here and oversees educational development.

BT: Please tell us your training system.

Akiyama: We consider training a life-long process. In the near future, we hope to be able to send our employees to other regions, such as the US, Japan and Korea, and make Canon China a major base for generating talented staff for the company's global development.

BT: Do you have any specific recruiting plan for this year, and what are your general recruitment policies?

Akiyama: We have over 600 local employees and planning to reach 700 by the end of this year and 2,000 within five years.

Generally speaking, recent graduates are welcome to take entry-level positions, while for middle and upper level positions, meaning management level, we prefer experienced employees who have worked in related fields.

We focus more on recruits' abilities and potential. Holding a big name diploma does not mean an employee will necessarily be competent and competitive in our company.

BT: When Canon China interviews job candidates, what do interviewers focus on most?

Akiyama: We not only listen to what they say, but also focus on how they perform during interviews in order to try to assess their attitudes, personal thoughts and capabilities. For example, self-confidence can be conveyed through the eyes, while a smile reveals an open mind and a strong voice is a mark of leadership ability.

BT: It seems you try to maintain a comfortable and relaxed atmosphere during recruitment interviews. Is that true too in daily work at your company?

Akiyama: Yes, the overall environment at Canon China is easy-going and lively. I greet my colleagues every morning and we like to joke around aside from just working. I believe that kind of environment helps employees feel freer, and therefore more creative, and reduces work stress.

Training Trends

CCIM Certification

The Certified Commercial Investment Member qualification, known as CCIM for short, was created and is run by the US-based Commercial Investment Real Estate Institute.

This certificate is a key to entering the upper echelons of the commercial real estate industry – an elite group of only 7,500 professionals hold the credential in the US.

In China, the Commercial Investment Real Estate Institute teamed up with the University of International Business and Economics in 1999 and opened the country's first CCIM training center in Beijing.

To qualify for the training, candidates must have a bachelor's degree and at least three years of work experience in the real estate, banking or investment fields.

Courses in the training program are Introduction to Commercial Investment (CI), Financial Analysis for CI, Market Analysis, User Decision Analysis, Investment Analysis and Course Concepts Review.

Students that pass tests in all six courses and the evaluation of a CCIM agent can move on to the next step, taking the decisive final examination. Those that pass can receive coveted CCIM credentials.

The training costs 40,000 yuan, no small sum, but a bargain considering that top professionals with CCIM certificates earn an average of more than 200,000 yuan a year in China. There is estimated demand for around 5,000 CCIM holders in China, meaning the certificates are keys to top jobs in this country.

(By Ruan Ying)

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Native English speakers wanted to teach English in Northern and Southern China, including Hebei, Suzhou and Hangzhou.

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or Ms. Fang at: 6894 8899-50142.

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Email: CCTV@vip.bbn.cn

English major graduate with TEM8 (Test for English Majors Grade 8), basic Japanese language skills and familiar with Windows Office, looking for job. Obedient and creative, honest and patient.

Contact: Elisha Song
Mobile: 13522366562

Holder of BA in scientific English, skilled with Windows Office, six years experience in project procurement and international tendering, familiar with procedures of World Bank loans, UNDP grants, GEF funds and Asian Development Bank loans, overseas working experience in engineering and construction of oil and gas, petrochemicals.

Contact Angel, Yang Xiao
Mobile: 13601397511
Email: txwsh7511@hotmail.com

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(Edited by Xie Lixue)

(You are welcome to send positions offered and wanted info to: ayi@ynet.com.)

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北京青年报
BEIJING TODAY
今日北京

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(Edited by Xie Lixue)

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xin Real Estate

This Monday, Study Abroad Salon invited Mrs. Frauke Dittmann, market director of the Beijing office of Germany Academic Exchange Services (DAAD) to talk about issues related to studying abroad in Germany.

More than 400 international degree programs taught in English are available in Germany, most of which are tuition-free, Mrs. Dittmann noted in her answers to more than 40 questions from *Beijing Today* readers.

The session also covered such topics as language study and living and working conditions in Germany.

You are welcome to log in to our website at <http://bjtoday.ynet.com> to view the chat records and take part in similar chats every Monday afternoon. You can also forward your questions to the host Ayi at: ayi@ynet.com.

What study programs in English are available in Germany?

Please give me ten reasons why I should study in Germany!

— JackieZhang

There are more than 10 reasons, but here are several:

1. Academic teaching levels in Germany are very high;
2. German academic degrees are recognized all over the world;
3. You will find over 300 universities in Germany and a wide range of majors;

4. Numerous organizations, including the DAAD, provide fellowships and prizes;

5. Universities have close ties to industry, offering internship and research opportunities;

6. Many international degree courses and programs are taught in English;

7. All undergraduate and most graduate courses are free of charge, though the policy will change in coming years. But the new tuition fees will be very low;

8. You can enjoy very good living and study conditions at reasonable prices;

9. Germany is a beautiful country at the heart of Europe.

Are there any good universities or majors taught in English? Could you recommend some, especially those free of tuition fees?

— 注册商标

German higher education institutions offer over 1,000 international degree programs in English. There are currently more than 60 bachelor degree, 260 master's degree and many PhD programs available in English. The number is increasing every year.

Besides, more programs are being taught both in English and German. Students use English in the first year and German and English in the second year of their master's courses.

Famous universities include the Technical University of Munich, University of Hamburg, Technical University of Berlin, Humboldt University Berlin, University of Stuttgart and University of Koln. You can find more at: www.daad.de/idp.

Majors available in English include natural sciences, agriculture/forestry, regional planning, computer science, mathematics, economic, law, engineering sciences, social sciences and cultural studies.

Free to learn:

Do students have to pay tuition fees for international programs in Germany?

— JackieZhang

Most international degree programs are free, but if you study for an MBA, you have to pay.



Photo by Photocom

Take English Courses Along The Rhine



Frauke Dittmann

Photo by Ayi

I hope to get a part-time job while studying in Germany. What are the legal rules and market demand there?

— joyce.chen

Studying is a full-time job. If you want to finish your study on time it is necessary to concentrate on learning.

However, as a student, you are allowed to work during semester breaks. You can work 90 days or 180 half days a year and do not need working permission.

If your German level is excellent, it is easy to find a student job.

I was told living in Germany is really expensive!

— 注册商标

Living in Germany is more expensive than in China.

As a student, you need 600 euros per month for housing, food and commuting, at least.

If you live in a small city, it will be cheaper.

My guess is studying in eastern Germany will be cheaper! What subjects and courses are the best there?

— beetles800216

Notice

Today, July 30, at 2-3pm, we will invite Mr. Tony Mercer, director of visa operation from the British Embassy to explain the procedure changes of visa applying in our "Study Abroad Salon".

赴英签证须预约

今天下午2点到3点，英国使馆签证官Tony Mercer将做客“留学聊天室”，就“赴英签证须预约”一事，与大家进行交流。

Beijing Today will launch "Month of New Zealand" next Monday. We will invite vice chancellors from the eight universities in New Zealand to introduce their schools.

The first guest is Dr. Neil Quigley, Victoria University of Wellington. Time: 1-2 pm, Monday, August 2 Address: <http://bjtoday.ynet.com>

Or send your questions to the host Ayi at: ayi@ynet.com.

“新西兰之夏”

下周一（8月2日）开始，“留学聊天室”将拉开“新西兰之夏”序幕。我们将邀请新西兰全部八所大学校长与大家交流。

8月2日下午1点至2点，惠灵顿维多利亚大学的校长Neil Quigley先生将首先与大家见面。

欢迎登陆我们的网站: <http://bjtoday.ynet.com>。您也可以把问题发给主持人阿义，由他帮你提问: ayi@ynet.com。

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Ask Ayi:

Q: I just graduated university with a major in English, but I have yet to receive my actual BA diploma. Can I apply to a preparatory course in Ireland first, and then directly enter a master's degree program from there after I have received my BA diploma?

— Luoli11

A: Ireland's educational system is strict in this regard, as all applicants are required to provide as much documentation as possible. Plus, it will be hard to get a visa if you just go into a preparatory program.

Regarding majors, you can only apply for something in a university's English department, such as literature, translation or linguistics.

Q: I have finished my undergraduate study and am having trouble deciding whether I should go for an 18-month master's in marketing from the University of Melbourne or a two-year, double-discipline master's in commerce and logistics at the University of Sydney. Which do you think would be better? What kind of changes would I stand of immigrating?

— Quietspace

A: You can directly compare both courses from the universities' websites, www.unimelb.edu.au and www.usyd.edu.au, and take your own strengths and weakness into consideration. It is hard for people who study business to immigrate to Australia – for people with that kind of background, there are far more job opportunities in China.

Q: I am a student at a professional college, so I will not get an academic degree. I am studying international trade and will graduate next year. I have taken the IELTS and got a score of 6. Can I go directly into a master's degree program abroad after graduating, or do I need a bachelor's degree or some work experience first?

— Wangsc66

A: Certainly, it would be better to obtain a bachelor's degree in China first. That should give you a wider choice when applying for master's programs abroad.

Another option would be to accumulate some work experience and apply to study in the UK, where professional experience is relatively closely considered in university applications.

Q: My major is English, and my second foreign language is Japanese. My husband is studying for a master's in Japan. Could I study for a master's there, and in what subject?

— Kikili

A: You might do best to study in such fields as education, mass media and management in Japan, because they would not require as advanced levels of Japanese language.

(Edited by Xie Lixue)

Australia's Approaching eVisa Service Limited to Agents

Chinese media have run many reports recently based on rumors that Australia is on the verge of launching Internet-based electronic visa application service for Chinese hoping to study in the country.

Christine Sykes, minister-counselor (immigration) of the Australian Embassy, clarified the eVisa issue with *Beijing Today* on Wednesday, answering some questions opened by imprecise previous Chinese media coverage.

Sykes faxed the following information to *Beijing Today*:

— From July 1, 2004, the Australian Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) commenced testing a new Internet lodgment (eVisa) facility for assessment level (AL) 2-4 students who are outside Australia.

— A broad trial will commence in the PRC from November 2004 subject to successful system testing.

— Access to the new facility is restricted to education agents in the PRC who are party to a valid Facility Access Agreement with DIMIA. Direct Internet lodgment by AL 2-4 students will not be available.

— Pre-visa assessment (PVA) arrangements do not apply to applications lodged through the eVisa facility. eVisa applications may be lodged up to four months (124 days) before course commencement.

— The Australian Adelaide Offshore Student Processing Center will process PRC applications lodged through the eVisa facility.

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So Cool It's Hot

By Wang Yao

Kids today must carry some serious cash, because retailers can't seem to get enough of the youth market. The latest shopping area to target the young and hip is So Cool, a two-storey mall complex near Jiangzhaikou packed with fashionable clothes (most representing Japanese and Hong Kong-ish styles) as well as stores for adding character to an apartment. The shopping center even houses an indoor basketball court, video game center, "haunted house" and restaurants, making it a fun place to hang for the young and young at heart.

EYGOOD

Tibetan jewelry, make way for the latest in exotic accessories – Egyptian-style silver pieces at the EYgood store.

The jewelry on offer is all crafted from pure silver, most into shapes based on hieroglyphs and mythic images from ancient Egypt. EYgood's professional craftsmen learned their skills from experts at an Egyptian museum, meaning authenticity is beyond doubt.

Among the most striking pieces are pendants and other works carved in the likeness of Egyptian gods and legendary personalities, brought to life in exquisite detail and three-dimensional relief and priced from 75 yuan to 295 yuan. Shoppers can

choose deities and figures closest to their own characters, from Queen Nefertiti, who represents beauty, wisdom and prosperity, to King Tutankhamun, image of leadership, luxury and steadfastness, to Bast, exotic goddess of cats, an enduring symbol of love, happiness and, naturally, felines.

The beauty of hieroglyphs is put to creative use in rings that can be carved with custom messages of mysterious pictographs. Attractive ready-made options are also available, the most popular of which are rings engraved with ankhs, ancient symbols of crosses with loops at their tops that represent long life and protection. Ring prices range from 118 yuan to 198 yuan.

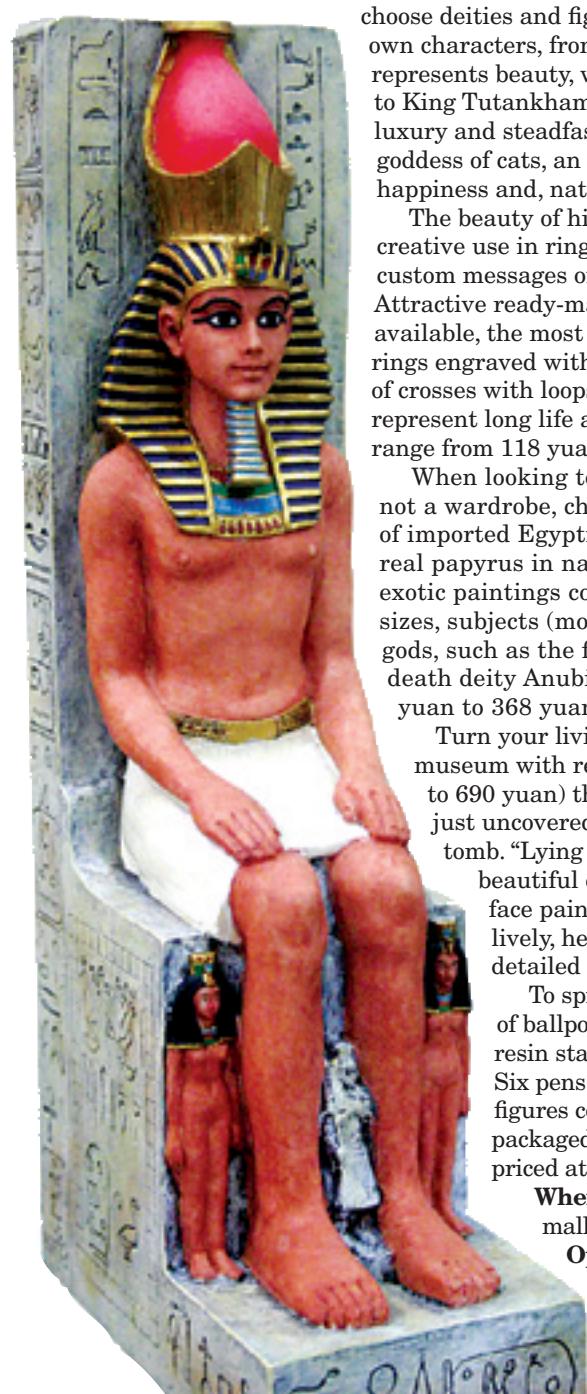
When looking to accessorize a room, not a wardrobe, check out the selection of imported Egyptian artworks painted on real papyrus in natural plant inks. The exotic paintings come in a wide array of sizes, subjects (most portray kings and gods, such as the falcon-headed Horus and death deity Anubis) and prices, from 88 yuan to 368 yuan.

Turn your living room into a mini-museum with resin sculptures (28 yuan to 690 yuan) that look like they were just uncovered in an ancient Egyptian tomb. "Lying Nefertiti" portrays the beautiful queen on her side, her face painted to look warm and lively, her clothes beautifully detailed and richly colored.

To spruce up an office, try sets of ballpoint pens topped with little resin statuettes of Egyptian gods. Six pens topped with different figures come in each set, nicely packaged in velvet boxes and priced at 59 yuan.

Where: NO.1B-098, So Cool mall, Jiangzhaikou, Dongcheng Open: 10 am - 9 pm Tel: 13331090287

Pharaoh sculpture, 180 yuan



Sarcophago-box, 260 yuan



Wicker basket, 68 yuan



Handa Coffee Tools

Many people in the land of tea have started to develop a taste for coffee, and that is where the Handa store comes in, providing all kinds of beans, grinders, brewers and accessories for making a perfect cup of joe.

Any fine cup of coffee starts with top beans and Handa offers many kinds, freshly roasted and full of flavor. Of course, whole beans on their own are no good towards making a cup of java, meaning step two towards perfect coffee is choosing a bean grinder. The store offers a range of grinders made in Taiwan that are all hand operated, turning beans put in top compartments into powder of custom-set fineness that dumps into a little drawer for easy use. Prices range from 154 yuan to 500 yuan.

Then it's on to the all-important makers, and

Grassland

Even in the hazy days of summer, it's possible to bring a breath of fresh air to any room of the house thanks to the wicker and grass-based furniture on sale at the Grassland, or Cao Mumu, store.

Prime examples of the store's simple aesthetic are three-drawer chests knit of bamboo strips and grass threads meant to store books, CDs, or little knickknacks. The items derive their soothing vibe not only from their materials and natural green color but also from their fresh, grassy odor. The chests come in different sizes and at low prices of just 30 yuan to 70 yuan each.

For natural comfort, check out a range of airy chairs (60 yuan to 100 yuan) woven from wicker and rattan yet strong enough to hold people as heavy as 100 kilograms. Chairs vary in size and



Photos by Li Shuzhuan

DO MAN

The pleasures of leather need little introduction. But Do Man opens all kinds of new possibilities in hide-based fashions by offering unusual do-it-yourself service, meaning customers can pick the skin and style they like most and get one-off pieces sure to impress.

Start the process by choosing a type of leather, be it cow, sheep, pig or even rhinoceros. Pieces can be dyed to personal demands, but tend to come in the more popular shades of brown and black and a few brighter choices like orange and blue. Prices of DIY items differ according to type, amount of leather used and other variables.

Many customers into customizing use the DIY service to get a high-quality knock-off of an expensive name brand item made at a fraction of the price. Simply bring in a picture of a favorite fashion and allow the store's competent staff handle the rest. Even with labor and design

Handa does not disappoint with a wide selection of styles, many representing top foreign brands.

Arguably the coolest looking coffee makers on offer are siphon, or vacuum, makers (300 yuan to 500 yuan), that appear like a small mad chemist's set of glass flasks, gilded brackets and a burner. Easier to use than they look, vacuum makers harness the power of suction to draw hot water through a layer of ground coffee with delicious, fragrant results.

The same principal of physics is used in less dramatic form in mokka, or stovetop espresso, pots made by Italy's Bialetti brand. The solid-looking makers are hued from aluminum alloy, and when properly manipulated will regularly yield cups of thick, heady coffee with little effort. Prices range from 400 yuan to 800 yuan.

For complete coffee enjoyment, aesthetics also need to be taken into account in the form of cups. Handa offers a distinctive selection of imported drinking vessels that fetch 125 yuan to 375 yuan. Among the most popular choices are ones painted with chrysanthemum or peony blossoms and ultra-modern cups with sharp triangular shapes.

Gear heads can go one step further and purchase an immerser, a device used to stir and heat coffee without bringing it to a bitter boil. They come in stainless steel and glass versions that are just as good for keeping tea and milk mixed and warm.

Where: NO.2C-058, So Cool mall Open: 10 am - 9 pm Tel: 13611045338

style, the smallest just big enough to comfortably seat an infant.

Get that country home feeling by picking up grass baskets that come in a rainbow of naturally dyed colors like cherry pink, green, purple, even striped versions and ones that incorporate dried corn husk (20 yuan to 50 yuan). Similar materials make for distinctive, comfortable pet beds, fashioned into fun shapes like little cottages and cradles, sure to become a welcome home to any animal friend. Prices range from 20 yuan to 80 yuan.

Wearable grass is on offer in the form of surprisingly comfortable sandals crafted from soft cattail. Their reedy footbeds absorb sweat, prohibit the growth of stinky bacteria and actually soften hardened soles. Match the shoes with a choice from Grassland's selections of handbags (12 yuan to 50 yuan) made of natural grasses and dyed in many eye-catching colors.

Where: NO.2C-060, So Cool mall Open: 10 am - 9 pm Tel: 13521669217

charges included, the price of a custom copy at Do Man is certain to be 20 to 50 percent that of an original brand name item.

If you're not exactly sure what you want, browse through the store's large stock of ready-to-wear products. One of the most striking pieces is a white women's bag crafted of fine rhinoceros skin, fur and all (120 yuan). It has a creative rhomboid shape and is kept together by hand-sewn leather thread.

One for the fellas is a small waistpack made of furry cow skin (130 yuan), perfect for the urban cowboy. It is just the right size for toting a wallet and portable music player and closes securely with a distinct steel buckle.

Give your cell phone rough riding, cool protection with a leather pendant holster. The irregularly shaped pieces are embossed with comic doodles and words and provide serious, stylish digital safety (10 yuan to 25 yuan).

Where: NO.1B-077, So Cool mall Open: 10:30 am - 8:40 pm Tel: 13911859140

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Contact: Lily, 5176 3854, 13671081594, or email: lilyrose1594@yahoo.com.cn

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Chinese native speaker, female, mid 20s, speaks standard Mandarin and Cantonese, would like to teach either language. She has four years of teaching experience. Contact: fanyanyan11@yahoo.com.cn

Ting, female, English B.A., writer, wants to make friends with English students and native English speakers. Her email: grace4024770@chinaren.com

Contact: Lily, 5176 3854, 13671081594, or email: lilyrose1594@yahoo.com.cn

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Hao, a 24-year-old girl, has been an English teacher for three years and is studying an English major in Beijing. She'd like to make friends with English students and native English speakers. Her email: grace4024770@chinaren.com

Alen wants to find some native English speakers who are down-to-earth, good-hearted and honest, as language partners and friends. Email: alen67892000@yahoo.com.cn, Tel: 8659 2919

Personals

A nice guy, 172cm, 30 years old, from the south of China, humorous and humane, with overseas experience and a nice job in a *Global 500* company is looking for a petite and pretty

girl with at least college education, preferably from Jiangsu, Shanghai, or Dalian and with interests in reading, sports and travelling. Contact: ootang@sina.com

A Chinese man would like to help foreign friends to find apartments in Beijing. He will provide the service for free. Contact: 8096 2282, email: tyler2529@yahoo.com.cn

A Chinese with diplomas in Chinese and English would like to teach Mandarin or Taichi boxing. Contact: Mrs. Ma, 6615 3881 or email: zhiyuma2000@yahoo.com.cn

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Performance**Thunder Storm**

Directed by Xia Chun, starring Gong Lijun, Yang Lixin, Wang Ban, Xia Liyan, Bai Hui, Wang Danian, Sun Da-chuan, and Xu Baixiao. To commemorate the 70th birthday of the play, a major classic drama since the May Fourth Movement, after four months of rehearsals, *Thunder Storm* will be presented to Beijing audiences.

Where: Capital Theater, 22 Wangfujing, Dongcheng **When:** 7 pm, July 30 – August 8 **Admission:** 80-280 yuan (students: 40-60 yuan) **Tel:** 8448 3335



Commemorating Deng Xiaoping's 100th Birthday

A large symphonic and choral evening will be held to commemorate Deng Xiaoping's 100th birthday. Deng Xiaoping, a member of the Chinese Communist Party since his youth, is revered for his outstanding services to the Chinese people, throughout the revolution, during the development of the People's Republic and especially in recent years when, after the disastrous cultural revolution, he succeeded in setting the country on the road to socialist modernization. The contribution he made to the revolution, and his courage as an innovator earned him the respect of the Chinese people.

Where: Poly Theater, Dongshiditiao **When:** 7:30 pm, August 6 **Admission:** 180-880 yuan **Tel:** 6500 1188 ext. 5126

Little Tiny & Sleeping Beauty

Russia's St.Petersburg Childrens' Ballet Group is visiting Beijing to perform its most famous ballets.

Where: Exhibition Theater, 109-2 Huixin Nanli, Chaoyang **When:** 7:30 pm, tonight and Saturday **Admission:** 100-760 yuan **Tel:** 8253 3615

Activities**Western Classical Music in China**

Sheila Melvin and Jindong Cai - co-authors of the newly-published *Rhapsody in Red: How Western Classical Music Became Chinese* – will talk about the western and Chinese heroes who made a Chinese art form out of classical music. This talk will focus on influential figures in this development, including Jesuit missionary Matteo Ricci, Italian conductor Mario Paci, and Chinese musicians such as Xian Xinghai, Li De-lun and Tan Dun.

Where: Chinese Culture Club, **When:** 7:30-9 pm, August 4 **Admission:** 30 yuan (members: 20 yuan) **Tel:** 8851 4913

Friday's Trip

Travel with Cycle China to Inner Mongolia. Tourists can cycle on the most beautiful grassland near Hohhot, swim in a lake and do some horse-riding. The tour also includes a day trip to the Gobi desert. Tour around the biggest city in Inner Mongolia by bike, check out some highlights, and get to know the real life of the locals.

When: Friday night – Monday morning **Cost:** 1,280 yuan (including all transportation, bike, horse-riding, lunch, supper and breakfast, plus all entrance fees and accommodation.) **Tel:** 13911886524

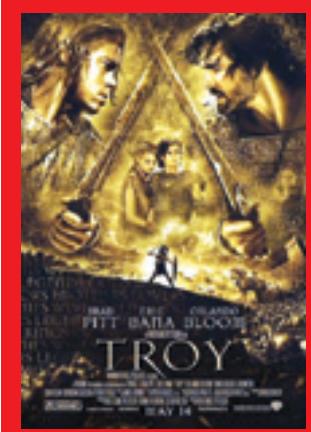
YPHH : the Margarita Night!

YPHH hosts another Cocktail Night at Centro: the Margarita Night! You can expect the bartenders to come up with five different Margarita cocktails. Centro provides hot and cold canapes and snacks. We offer this package for the Special YPHH price of 100 yuan per person. Laverne Butler is back in

**Spider-Man 2****Movies****Troy**

Directed by Wolfgang Petersen, starring Brad Pitt, Eric Bana, Orlando Bloom, Peter O'Toole and Diane Kruger. In ancient Greece, Prince Paris (Bloom) of Troy snatched legendary Greek beauty Helen (Kruger) away from her husband, Menelaus, the king of Sparta, setting the two nations at war with each other. The Greeks began a bloody siege of Troy using their entire army, led by Achilles (Pitt) among others, in a war that lasted over a decade.

Where: Sun Dong An Cinema City, fifth floor of Sun Dong An Plaza **When:** 9 am – 8:40 pm, today and tomorrow **Admission:** 10 yuan **Tel:** 6582 1898



town and she will perform live during the evening.

Where: 1 Sanlitun Beiji, Chaoyang **When:** August 4 **Tel:** 8454 0054

Qigong and Health Workshop

Chinese Culture Club's guest speaker Master Wang Xiaojun teaches qigong according to the jie qi periods based on the Chinese Lunar Calendar. Every 15 days (*one jie qi*), he will teach a new set of breathing exercises and movements that fits the season. Master Wang Xiaojun, who specializes in medical Qigong and teaches workshops across the country, demonstrates a variety of exercises used for centuries to slow the aging pro-

Directed by Sam Raimi, starring Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst and Alfred Molina. In *Spider-Man 2*, the lastest installment in the blockbuster *Spider-Man* series, based on the classic Marvel Comics hero, Tobey Maguire returns as the mild-mannered Peter Parker, who is juggling the delicate balance of his dual life as a college student and a super-human crime fighter. The entertaining adventure escalates and Spider-Man's life becomes even more complicated when he confronts a new enemy, the brilliant Otto Octavius, (Alfred Molina) who has been reincarnated as the maniacal and multi-tentacled "Doctor Octopus".

Where: UME International Cineplex, (Huaxing Guoji Yingcheng), 44 Shuangyushu Kexueyuan, Haidian **When:** opens August 2 **Tel:** 6261 2851

cess, boost immunity, increase energy and reduce stress.

Where: Opera Photo Theatre, next to the Chinese Culture Club, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaiqiao Lu **When:** the workshop runs year-round on every Monday evening, 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm **Admission:** 80 yuan per class, 600 yuan for 10 classes (10-class card also available, valid for three months and can be shared by multiple users) **Tel:** 8462 2801

Artist Village Exploration & Weekend Art Workshop

Song Zhuang Village Club offers a three-hour tour to explore the Song Zhuang Artists' Village, one of the largest art

Lover Of The Last Empress (Cixi de Mimi Shenghuo)

Directed by Andrew Lau, starring Chingmy Yau, Tony Leung Ka Fai, Yu Rongguang. In 1861 Yu Lan becomes a concubine to the Chinese emperor. She uses her brain and her body to become the favorite and she bears a son of the emperor. This film tells of the rise to power of Cixi, the Empress Dowager, through a less than academic approach. It shows young Cixi as a naive girl who ascends to the position of empress after experiencing various shocks and humiliations and thus learning to be ruthless, murderous, and conniving.

Where: Cherry Lane Movie Theater, 29 Liangmaiqiao Lu, Chaoyang **When:** 8 pm tonight and Saturday **Admission:** 50 yuan **Tel:** 13501251303



communities in the world with 300 professional artists residing there. You can visit the artists' studios and gardens, see their latest works, talk with the artists and gain a better understanding of their life and work.

Village Club also offers weekend classes on pottery, Chinese painting, paper cutting, T-shirt painting and peking opera face painting, for adults and children.

Where: 1 Beilu, Ren Zhuang Village, Song Zhuang, Tongzhou **When:** 9 am – 5 pm for art classes and 10:30 am to 1:30 pm or 2-5 pm for studio visits, Saturday & Sunday **Tel:** 13901244283 or 6959 8343

Exhibitions

Tian Xifeng's Solo Exhibition

Tian Xifeng, a young Chinese gongbi painter, focuses on natural beauty, such as Chinese flowers.

Where: Melodic Art Gallery, 14 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang **When:** August 1-31, 9 am – 7 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6515 8123

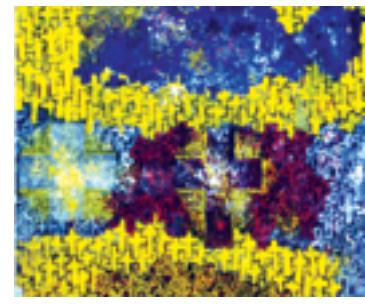


New Center Gallery

An exhibition of works by Zhang Lijun, Liu Yongming, Sun Chengxin, Zhao Huaiwang, Niu Zhiye and 20 other artists. Their works range from Chinese traditional watercolors to a more

modern style.

Where: New Center Gallery, 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng **When:** 10 am – 6 pm, August 5-25 **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6526 8098



Wang Qiuren's Solo Exhibition

As one of the first to arrive in the Song Zhuang artists' community, Wang Qiuren is well known in the artist community. After pursuing an avant garde style for many years, he has returned to a more traditional style. He's trying to combine aspects of tradition and modernity, expressing tradition in a modern way or explaining modernity from a traditional viewpoint. His belief in Tibetan Buddhism is another influence, signs of which can be clearly seen in his work.

Where: Song Zhuang Artist Village Gallery, 1 Beilu, Ren Zhuang Village, Song Zhuang, Tongzhou **When:** 9 am – 12 pm, August 1-31 **Admission:** 15 yuan **Tel:** 13901244283, 6959 8343

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Mr. Deeds 9:00 pm

31 Saturday

A Walk To Remember 9:00 pm

1 Sunday

The Last Castle 8:00 pm

2 Monday

D-Tox 9:00 pm

3 Tuesday

The Adventures Of Pluto Nash 11:45 pm

4 Wednesday

Swept Away 10:35 pm

5 Thursday

The Next Karate Kid 1:05 am

CCTV-9

Monday – Friday

Around China 6:30 am

Cultural Express 8:30 am

Nature and Science / Chinese Civilization 11:30 am

Cultural Express 2:30 pm

Nature and Science / Chinese Civilization 5:30 pm

Dialogue 7:30 pm

News Updates / Asia Today 8 pm

Sports Scene 11:15 pm

Saturday

Travelogue 9:30 am

Center Stage 11:30 am

Sunday

Sports Weekend 10 am

Documentary 10:30 am

This Week 12:30 am

China Radio International 91.5 FM Monday – Friday

Easy FM Afternoon 2:30 pm

Fun in Beijing 5:50 pm

Joy FM 9:05-11 pm

Saturday

Music Memories 8:05-11 am

Euro Hit 40 12:05-1 pm

Music Sans Frontiers 6:05-8 pm

Joy FM 9:05-11 pm

Sunday

Of Anglers and Hermits, a Site Immersed in History

By Shida Zhu

A visit to Diaoyutai (the Angling Terrace, 钓鱼台) in the west of Beijing will surely be a rare and exhilarating experience, no matter whether you are a politician, a historian or just a tourist.

When you take a stroll in the 800-year-old Diaoyutai, it is difficult to imagine that the silent willows and lawns and carved pavilion columns have witnessed many historical turning points in modern Chinese history, including Zhou Enlai's ice-breaking talks with President Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger in 1972.

The six-partite conference on the nuclear issue of the Korean Peninsular was held at Fangfeiyuan (芳菲园), which faces a green lawn to the south and a lake dotted with water lilies to the north in the center of Diaoyutai. Fangfeiyuan has accommodated more than 700 well-known international personages, including CEOs from Morgan Group, Shell and Ericsson. Through special arrangements, this section of the state guesthouse is also available to the general public.

A stream winds its way through three artificial lakes on the grounds of Fangfeiyuan, all well stocked with fish. Graceful weeping willows line the shores,

and white poplars serve as a shady canopy for the roads. Bridges, hills, rockeries, flowers and exotic plants provide a rich setting for the pine-shaded villas. Building No. 18, where Nikita Khrushchev stayed in 1959, is flanked by two bronze lions that once stood at Yuanmingyuan, the imperial garden.

A high brick terrace runs from north to south along the southwestern part of the wall surrounding Diaoyutai. The main western gate leading to the terrace still bears a stone plaque inscribed with the characters "Diaoyutai" in Emperor Qianlong's handwriting. The four sides of the terrace are lined with crenellations, which give it the appearance of a castle.

The actual terrace stands to the north of the Pavilion for Convalescence (Yangyuanzhai, 养生斋). A spacious hall and a pool where the emperors went fishing once stood here. In 1773, Emperor Qianlong had an imperial resort constructed here. The lake was dredged and enlarged, using spring water diverted from the Fragrant Hills (Xiangshan).

The guesthouse is renowned for the culinary brilliance of its



Tongleyuan



Fangfeiyuan

kitchens. Banquets here are all prepared by master chefs well versed in Chinese and Western cooking styles.

The former imperial dwelling remains basically the same as it was in the days of Emperor Qianlong. Surrounded by a beautiful corridor, Yangyuanzhai faces towering rockeries and gurgling brooks that converge into a lucid pond. Qinglu Courtyard (清露堂), with pine trees and bamboo shading its zigzagging paths, has an elegant, peaceful and pleasant appearance. Xiaobi Pavilion

(潇碧园) a fine piece of architecture supported by its columns, provides an ideal spot for angling.

The irony is that Diaoyutai was historically meant to accommodate hermits who retired from the storm and stress of political life. If we dip into the history of Diaoyutai and Yuyuantan (玉渊潭), the park adjoining Diaoyutai State Guesthouse, it would add much charm to your tour in

Beijing.

The site was formerly a private garden on the bank of the river for transportation of food grains to the city during the Jin Dynasty. The capital of Jin was located to the southwest of today's Guang'anmen. The city was girdled by moats that took water from the Yuquan (玉泉, Jade Spring) River in the northwest through Yuyuantan (Jade Pond). The river area, known as the Queen Mother River, was criss-crossed with streams where the wealthy and high officials built private gardens and villas and the emperors erected imperial gardens. Diaoyutai was one of those gardens.

The area later declined and common folk built thatch-roofed houses there, and it became known as Huayuancun (花园村),

the Garden Village. Wang Yu, a man of letters of the Jin, lived here in seclusion and devoted himself to writing, turning his back on the outside world. He built an angling platform on the lakeside and often invited scholar friends to come fishing. According to Gui Qian Zhi (归潜志 Records of Hermits), a scholar named Li Qin happened to come to the house and found his essays and calligraphic works to be of extremely high literary value.

Li recommended Wang to the court, but Wang fled and went traveling in the world. He was later killed in the ravages of war.

After Wang's departure, the Jin emperor declared the place an imperial garden, and remodeled the fishing platform into a structure of noble white marble protruding into the water. The imperial family came every summer and lived in the Pavilion of Yaoguang (瑶光殿) in the northwest.

During the Yuan Dynasty, the garden fell into disrepair and was taken possession of by a man named Ding, who renamed the lake Jade Pond.

Emperor Qianlong in the 38th year of his rule decided to dredge the lake and made it a reservoir to conserve summer deluges from the Western Hills. One of the major projects was to transform the Hanhe River that emptied into

the lake. A wall was built round the lake and trees and flowers were planted amidst grotesque rock formations. Emperor Qianlong renamed it Yangyuanzhai. A poem by the emperor was inscribed on a pavilion there:

*Outside the wall is the lake,
And inside it is a pond;
You may command a general
view here,
What I have in mind
Is to improve water conservancy
in the city.*

The imperial family and high court officials came every year on the 15th day of the seventh lunar month, the Festival of Zhongyuan (中元节) when people floated paper lantern boats on the lake to drive away spirits. On the 9th of the 9th lunar month, the Festival of Mountain Climbing (登高节), horse races were staged west and south of Diaoyutai. Mongolian and Manchurian horsemen garrisoned in Beijing showed off their horsemanship and their remarkable archery skills.

It was still a forbidden area in the late Qing Dynasty when Li Ziming, a scholar who became a supervisor in Shanxi Province, bribed the eunuchs who looked after the garden in order to go boating on the Jade Pond. After the 1911 revolution that toppled the Qing Dynasty, Pu Yi, the last emperor, granted the garden to his teacher Chen Baoshen as a private property.

Fire Fun with the Yi

By Peng Juan

The Fourth International Torch Festival of the Yi people in Liangshan Autonomous Prefecture runs from August 4 to 13 in southwest China's Sichuan Province. The torch festival is the largest gala of the fire-worshipping Yi ethnic group, celebrated throughout Xichang, Puge, Zhaojue, Meigu and Dechang areas.

Originating in ceremonies for offering tributes to the ancestors, the Torch Festival is held every year on the 24th day of the sixth month of the lunar calendar, and usually lasts for 7 to 10 days.

Prior to the festival, every family stores up food for the coming festivities. Cattle and sheep are slain as a sacrifice to the ancestors on the first day, and afterwards, people invite one another to dine together.

When the sun sets, torches are lit. Fire represents the sun, and signifies warmth, bravery and beauty. Torches are erected in front of every household, and a pile of wood several meters high is built in the center of a square. The local shaman makes obeisances in front of the pile and prays for the blessing of a bountiful harvest in the coming year, before igniting the bonfire.

Gongs and horns are sounded, accompanied by women singing and beating drums. Then the torch parade begins. People carry torches and walk around their houses and fields, like so many flying fiery dragons in the hills, illuminating the fields and dispelling evil.



nating the fields and dispelling evil.

On the second day young people chase each other and play games, filling the town with gladness and laughter. Other activities include scattering torches, lighting fire arches and fireworks, wrestling, horse racing, singing and dancing, and bull fighting.

Young men put on their new clothes and wear head scarves decorated with a hero knot and women put on their best pleated skirts. The most animated scene is at the bullring.

Things really pick up on the evening of the third day. When night falls, a bonfire is lit which usually lasts till the next morning. Young men play flutes, pluck moon-shaped instruments and three-stringed guitars while dancing, and young women dance to the rhythm and clap their hands.

As the performance draws to a close, bonfires all around the ground are lit and spectators on the surrounding slopes form circles and dance around the bonfires. At this point, all those present on the sacred site – young or old, man or woman, local or visitor – become completely immersed in the happiness and joy of the festive atmosphere.

The "beauty run" is another special program feature. An elder of high prestige will act as the judge. At the beginning of the contest, the participating Yi girls form a circle and sing elegant folk songs.

In the meantime, the young men form a crowd around the girls and behave in a generous way. When a young man has found his beloved girl, he will hand to the judge the gift he has prepared and ask him to deliver it to the girl. The girl who gets the most gifts will be named Miss Beauty. Friends and relatives crowd around the Miss Beauty and offer their greetings, and the young men come to surround her to show their aspirations by playing *yu-kin*.

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Local Escapes

By James Liu

Summer holidays are in full swing (well, for some!) so break out your bucket and spade, your frozen daquiri glasses or whatever having-fun paraphernalia suits your purpose and ... read on! From this week, *Beijing Today* saves you the leg-work by checking out nearby tourist resorts and filing a detailed report on what's hot and what's not.

Karst Cavern, Golden Beach and Buddha

Looking for a place both cool and special, *Beijing Today* headed to Yunfoshan Resort, which boasts a karst cavern, an open-air bathing spot and a pine-covered hill offering a panoramic view of the whole resort and Miyun reservoir.

Just south of Miyun reservoir, Yunfoshan (Buddha mountain) stands on the eastern side of the Miyun-Xiwengzhuang road. From Dongzhimen, Yunfoshan is a two-hour drive, assuming smooth traffic. Trees lining the highway, the distant mountains and occasional rivers make the trip a scenic one.

An enormous charac-

ter carved into the west face of the mountain announces your imminent arrival at Yunfoshan. The character "佛" (Buddha) is 99 meters high and 56 meters wide, and painted vermilion.

There is also an underground wonder at Yunfoshan – the karst cavern. The cavern, which descends 150 meters below the surface, was found in the late 1980s and opened to tourists in the 1990s.

Stalactites, star lights, Buddha carvings and subterranean streams create an underground wonderland, where the summer temperature is 10 to 15 degrees lower than that outside.

If that is not cool enough for you, the resort has a small bathing area complete with wave

pool and beach.

Where: Xiwengzhuang, Miyun County

Getting there: Take bus 987 from Dongzhimen directly to Yunfoshan, or drive to Miyun, head north to Xiwengzhuang (溪翁庄) along Jingmi Lu, then turn left at Xidaqiao

Tel: 8903 2255
Admission: free

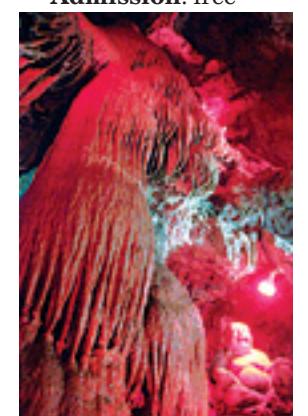


Photo by Li Shizhuan

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